

Hafa Adai!

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Over \$50M for tourism industry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has committed over \$50 million in the next two years using the American Rescue Plan Act funding to assist the CNMI's tourism industry as well as



Atalig

» **Atalig expects to see large stimulus batch after May 17 deadline to file tax returns** the business community, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

See OVER on Page 4

'CNMI is going to get over \$500M from the ARPA'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI is going to get a total of \$507 million under

the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. With that much money flowing to the CNMI, "we can't just do whatever we want," said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig. There are many rules and regulations that have to be followed and complied with in spending that funding.

For one, the state cannot use See ARPA on Page 4



TRIBUTE CONCERT

Marianas High School music teacher Gina Aguilar conducts the MHS Concert Band during the "Music Tribute for the Class of 2021 and Honoring the Vice Principals Mrs. Rdiall & Mr. Orsini" at the MHS Cafeteria.

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JOSHUA SANTOS

Alepuyo is new MVA chair

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Alepuyo

The Marianas Visitors Authority board unanimously elected Viola Alepuyo to be its new chair after former chair Marian Pierce-Aldan turned in her resignation at MVA's regular board meeting last Tuesday.

See ALEPUYO on Page 4

IPI repatriating 200 CW-1 workers starting next month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting June, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC will start repatriating 200 CNMI-Only Transitional Worker employees who are on the non-construction side,

according to IPI interim chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul last Tuesday.

In an interview during a break in the House of Representatives Committee on Gaming's meeting, Yumul also stated that under the U.S.

See IPI on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,004	12	8,016
Recovered	7,767	12	7,779
Active	87	12	99
Deaths	137	1	138
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			155,983

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	168	0	168
Traced via Travel Screening	132	0	132
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			49

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Amelida's Market is a new grocery store that is located along Middle Road across J's Restaurant.

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WORLD

The death toll from the collapse of an overpass on the Mexico City metro rises to 24 on Tuesday.

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LIFE & STYLE

A U.S. tax court has handed a major victory to the estate of Michael Jackson in a years-long battle.

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Local

'Providing legal ownership hardest to overcome for Yutu survivors'

» Many local contractors are in the program, boosting economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Providing legal ownership is proving to be the hardest challenge the Federal Emergency Management Agency has to overcome in its housing program for survivors of Super Typhoon Yutu, according to Sheryl Cochran, director of FEMA's Region IX Recovery Office.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Cochran said they are pushing as hard and as fast as they can to get the housing program finished but that effort has had some significant stumbling blocks, chief of which is getting homeowners to provide proof of legal ownership.

Yutu hit the CNMI last October 2018. As part of its assistance to the CNMI, FEMA has stepped in to help homeowners with repairing their damaged homes and, in some cases, building brand-new homes for qualified residents. Three years later since Yutu, though, Cochran said they have 25 cases that are still pending legal review or adjudication

with the court system to provide proof of legal ownership.

"And that's 25 out of 290 total cases. And that doesn't count the ones that we've completed," she added. Cochran said they had completed over 74 of those cases already.

"It would be easy to say, 'Let's start them all. Let's start them all right now.' But we had some significant issues that we had to deal with. Providing legal ownership has been the hardest to overcome," she said.

Also, nearly a third of the people applying for housing aid needs assistance to have the legal documentation even to start work. "So right now, where we're at is we're really hitting those cases that are just clearing probate," Cochran said.

She said FEMA believes that they will have everything through probate hopefully by late summer, and will be in the full-blown construction work by them.

She said as soon as they get

those cases out, they have the construction and repair contracts awarded as fast as they can. Right now, there are 60 homes pending contract award on new construction and 17 pending contract award on repair, she added.

Cochran said while those are ready to go, they still have a number of other projects for procurement and make sure that they bid those out.

She concedes that nobody is going to be happy until FEMA

is 100% done with the housing program. "And until we're 100% done, we are always going to push as hard as we can to get additional contractors here to bring on additional homes as fast as possible," she said.

On the other hand, Cochran said there is also a "big success story" to the situation and that is the number of local contractors that are really engaged in this program.

"Yes, there is a larger national contractor that's here. But the vast majority of the

work is going to the local contractors that are helping," Cochran said.

That's helping boost the CNMI economy, she said. "I think that that's a really good thing for the CNMI and for its overall recovery and resiliency," she pointed out.

She said it seems like it's been a really long time since Super Typhoon Yutu. Cochran wants to reassure everyone, though, that FEMA remains dedicated and committed. "I'm not sure how many of you know that we do have a long-term recovery office here. That is very different than what FEMA normally does," she said, adding that it's one of very few long-term recovery offices that they actually have in the agency.

Cochran said it's to make sure that they maintain that partnership, especially in insular areas, to rebuild that resilient community and make sure that they not only rebuild homes and infrastructure but also build capacity within.

She said they work quite closely with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and even with Labor Secretary Vicky

Benavente to help make sure that they can get workers here and grow that capacity.

Cochran said they talk a lot about housing and how many houses they've built, but she reminds people that there's been a big up push with the adaptation of the 2018 Building Code. "And those were really new to a lot of the local contractors," she said.

Cochran said they appreciate everybody's patience and diligence in staying committed to the program, but that one of the secondary things that happens when they execute these missions is that they bring in those different building codes and standards.

"And we shine a different light on how we can be more resilient, and how we can prevent future disasters," Cochran said.

Right now, she said, they've

returned a total of 107 homes to survivors, which is about 37% of the applicants that remain in the permanent housing program.

She said in both repair and new construction, they're looking at being at about 57% complete by August 2021. "That's really exciting for us to know that we're quickly approaching the halfway point," she said.

Of the 115 homes that remain in the repair program, Cochran said they've completed 80 homes here on Saipan and seven on Tinian. "So we're getting work on both islands. Obviously [that] comes with its own challenges beyond just the normal challenges here on Saipan. So we really appreciate everybody sticking with us and helping us get this done," she added.

Small craft advisory in effect

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Friday. East winds 15 to 20 knots with gusts of up to 25 knots are expected along Marianas coastal waters.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid navigating in hazardous conditions. (PR)

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We are removing vaccination barriers'

With the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. extending its vaccination efforts to villages, this is being looked at as one way to "remove any barriers" to achieving the goal of having at least 85% of the CNMI's population vaccinated against COVID-19 before the CNMI reopens its borders to tourists, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

By setting that goal, Muña said this will be one way for the CNMI to achieve herd immunity, which means vaccinating a high enough number of a population in order to provide indirect protection to the unvaccinated.

In line with this, CHCC announced yesterday that they changed the location for the vaccinations in Tanapag this Saturday from the Tanapag Youth Center to the San Roque Parish, from 8am to 12pm. To register online, visit vaccinatecnmi.com or call (670) 682 - SHOT (7468).

In an interview with Muña, she said they have reached out to private clinics as well to help administer the COVID-19 vaccine to their patients. So far, only the Medical Associates of the Pacific in Puerto Rico is on board.

"We are removing a lot of what may [be] considered barriers to getting vaccinations, whether it's transportation, more information about the vaccines, or just about the safety of the vaccines," said Muña. She said that they wanted to, as much as possible, have vaccination registrations available where it's easy to reach.

Muña said they want the registration to be as easy as when someone is going to the store and shopping for groceries that they could register for the vaccine when they're headed out.

"As we are getting closer to herd immunity...we're working with different clinics to see how they can provide the vaccines, rather than just CHCC alone. We're looking at pharmacies, we're looking

at clinics, [and] where people are gathered in any occasion and event," said Muña.

As for private clinics that

administer the vaccine, Muña says there won't be any fee for patients who get their vaccines there, and it's meant to be free,

no matter where it's given.

Muña reassures that they are doing everything within the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention's guidelines for vaccination outreaches.

CHCC's permanent vaccination sites are the Medical Care

and Treatment Site at CHCC's upper parking lot and the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. (*Justine Nauta*)

Hot Summer SAVINGS

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2017 HONDA HRV LX SALE PRICE \$16,995 STK: 18P317A 39,686 MILES KBB: \$17,453	2016 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT SALE PRICE \$12,995 STK: 16R259 32,154 MILES KBB: \$13,962	2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 2WD SALE PRICE \$33,995 STK: 19P321 13,339 MILES KBB: \$34,648
2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS • 54,175 MILES • STK: 9H106A • KBB: \$11,986 SALE PRICE \$9,995	2018 HONDA CIVIC EX-T • 10,640 MILES • STK: 18H10745 • KBB: \$20,609 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2019 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT 2WD • 12,549 MILES • STK: 19HS896 • KBB: \$20,458 SALE PRICE \$18,995
2014 KIA SPORTAGE LX • 64,625 MILES • STK: 14L065A • KBB: \$14,488 SALE PRICE \$11,995	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SP AWD • 30,612 MILES • STK: 21HO04A • KBB: \$18,555 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA • 4,180 MILES • STK: 20P307 • KBB: \$21,326 SALE PRICE \$18,995
2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C • 48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2019 HYUNDAI KONA 2WD • 15,640 MILES • STK: 20M186A • KBB: \$19,721 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT • 10,120 MILES • STK: 18HS935 • KBB: \$22,425 SALE PRICE \$19,995
2017 MAZDA3 SPORT • 38,494 MILES • STK: 7R235 • KBB: \$17,146 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON LTD AWD • 24,118 MILES • STK: 17R256 • KBB: \$18,424 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2018 FORD F-150 XL • 38,480 MILES • STK: 18P316 • KBB: \$24,252 SALE PRICE \$23,995
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER • 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A • KBB: \$15,830 SALE PRICE \$14,995	2017 MAZDA CX-5 GT • 45,271 MILES • STK: 20D126A • KBB: \$19,912 SALE PRICE \$18,995	2018 MAZDA CX-5 GT • 13,105 MILES • STK: 18P270 • KBB: \$26,475 SALE PRICE \$24,995
2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT • 10,153 MILES • STK: 18HS905 • KBB: \$19,496 SALE PRICE \$14,995	2015 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE • 62,811 MILES • STK: 5HS735A • KBB: \$19,031 SALE PRICE \$18,995	2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD • 8,214 MILES • STK: 19P299 • KBB: \$28,460 SALE PRICE \$26,995

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ALEPUYO

From Page 1

In an interview with MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, she confirmed that the board unanimously voted for Alepuyo and that all board members were present, while Aldan-Pierce attended via Zoom.

Aside from Aldan-Pierce, other members present at the board meeting were Chris Nelson, Warren Villagomez, Ivan Quichocho, Thomas Liu, Aguida Quitugua, and Gloria Cavanagh.

In a later interview with Alepuyo, she said "the most important thing" right now when reopening tourism is keeping the community safe. "There's a lot of moving parts here. There's a lot of people involved in the resumption of tourism for CNMI to make sure that we succeed," said Alepuyo.

She pointed out that many people

are working hard to restart the tourism industry—not just among affected agencies here in the CNMI but also among overseas industry partners.

When asked about the challenges they expect to face in reopening tourism, Alepuyo said, "The devil is in the details." While anyone can say they're going to reopen tourism, how you go about it must be strategically planned, she added.

"There are a bunch of i's to dot and t's to cross. We have to do it in compliance with the laws in the CNMI in conjunction with destination partners. Fortunately, we have a lot of industry partners who are very capable and motivated to get it done," said Alepuyo.

Along with MVA, all offshore MVA offices, whether in Korea or Japan, are assisting the CNMI in helping tourism resume, Alepuyo said.

Alepuyo echoed Iakopo that MVA is working with the Torres-Palacios

industry, Atalig said they have a percentage that they're allocating. "We are still fine-tuning how we're going to go about this," he said.

The secretary said they're talking about funding to assist small businesses here in the CNMI. That funding may be sourced through the Commonwealth Development Authority, Small Business Development Center, or the proposed Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.

"Those are in play, those are in discussions," he added.

Atalig said they want to make sure that funding is available to those businesses or opportunities for those businesses that are not able to receive funding through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.

For other small business, they're pushing the Restaurant Relief Program and Small Business Develop-

ment Center. Atalig said the Department of Commerce provided last week some workshops to try to help restaurants get some funding.

"So there's a lot of programs going in but we will make sure that we have some funding that will help those that fall through the gaps," he added.

As for further stimulus payments, Atalig said they will have another large batch once tax returns are submitted by the May 17 deadline and they identify the ones that haven't received their stimulus checks yet. "I ask our taxpayers to make sure that they fill out those forms, those supplemental forms to submit with their tax returns for their 2020, identifying if they received the first, second, or even the third stimulus," he said.

The secretary said they will make sure that funding is available so those that have not received but are qualified to do so will get their stimulus checks.

triating them by June."

IPI informed the CW workers that prior to May 30, they will contact them to provide them information about their airline tickets and payroll.

He said the CW workers are currently on furlough.

One of the CW workers, who requested not to be identified, said they are willing to leave the CNMI if they are paid three-fourths of their wages as guaranteed in their employment contract. The worker estimates that IPI owes him \$7,000.

As to IPI's payment of owed wages to some former and furloughed guest workers, Yumul said that under the U.S. Department of Labor settlement, IPI cannot choose which ones would be paid first.

"I cannot pull out one group to pay and not be equal because it's a scheduled payment. So they're all going to be paid through the settlement," he said.

The CEO said IPI did fail to make timely payments to the workers in the past, and all of that was corrected under the settlement. "Now there's a settlement and within the settlement, it also includes the benefits," Yumul said. "So all of that is already being dealt with."

He said the settlement covers everybody that worked at IPI and

OVER

From Page 1

"Yes, we are budgeting that amount. However, it does not mean they have to spend all of it," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the administration is committed to the success of the tourism resumption initiative, which is being called Travel Resumption Investment Plan, or TRIP.

Atalig disclosed the \$50-million commitment during a radio news briefing last Friday.

At the same briefing, Atalig said they have not processed any additional stimulus batches, but are expecting another large batch after the May 17 deadline to file tax returns.

As to the question at the briefing if the Torres-Palacios administration has identified an amount yet for subsidies for businesses in the tourism

IPI

From Page 1

Department of Labor's settlement, IPI had agreed to make payments to all employees who have claims.

Except for one, all Mongolian workers have already left the CNMI and that the next batch to be repatriated will be 200 CW workers sometime this June, Yumul said.

He said they submitted petitions to renew the CW-1 last September, but they have not received any official response from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

CW-1 workers may continue employment with the same employer for up to 240 days beginning on the expiration of their authorized period of stay pending adjudication of the petition.

Yumul said he has already notified the CW workers that the 240-day period is set to expire on May 30, 2021, and that it is with "a heavy heart" to inform them that their employment with IPI will end on that day.

He said they anticipate USCIS not to act on the extension petition that IPI had filed on the CW workers' behalf prior to the scheduled expiration date—hence "we have to start repa-

ring such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work; 52% for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue; and 21% to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Alepuyo is confident that everyone who is involved in reopening tourism in the CNMI can make it happen safely. With King-Hinds and her "very capable" team in the loop, Alepuyo is confident that it will happen safely, while also keeping the CNMI community safe.

"Because we are looking for the resumption of tourism, we are also looking at jumpstarting our signature events, but as we don't have visitors right now, we are focusing on the safety of the community," said Alepuyo. She also said there must be a "great balancing act in order to make sure we do it right."

ment Center. Atalig said the Department of Commerce provided last week some workshops to try to help restaurants get some funding.

"So there's a lot of programs going in but we will make sure that we have some funding that will help those that fall through the gaps," he added.

As for further stimulus payments, Atalig said they will have another large batch once tax returns are submitted by the May 17 deadline and they identify the ones that haven't received their stimulus checks yet. "I ask our taxpayers to make sure that they fill out those forms, those supplemental forms to submit with their tax returns for their 2020, identifying if they received the first, second, or even the third stimulus," he said.

The secretary said they will make sure that funding is available so those that have not received but are qualified to do so will get their stimulus checks.

has claims.

As to the issue of "stranded guest workers," Yumul said it's not that they're stranded; they don't want to leave because they are afraid that they might not get paid. "But they've been identified. U.S. Department of Labor knows who they are. We have their addresses," he said.

Yumul said they don't even want to hold the settlement money because they want to give it to the relevant governmental agency to make the payments for them.

"We don't want to get caught up in being blamed for them, for example, not receiving the payments, because it's already been memorialized in the [court] order," he said.

Meanwhile, as to why the Commonwealth Casino Commission has yet to recognize him as IPI's CEO, Yumul said it's because IPI has not paid its casino regulatory fee of \$3.1 million yet. He said CCC does not want to act on his application although he submitted all the relevant application and supporting documents.

"For me, it's non-issue because the casino is not operating," Yumul said.

Yumul attended Tuesday's House Committee on Gaming meeting, but the committee did not call him to testify.

ARPA

From Page 1

this money for any pension obligation or pension funding. Two, "we cannot use this money to subsidize a reduction in tax or lower taxes and use the monies to absorb and offset that."

Without going into great detail, Atalig laid out during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom yesterday the government's plans on how to spend its share of the ARPA money. "There are four major areas that we can spend this money on—Section 602 allocates \$483 million for state fiscal recovery (basically for the municipalities of Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and the Northern Islands), Section 603 b2 earmarks \$5 million for local fiscal recovery (non-entitlement units of local government), Section 603 b3 states \$10 million for local fiscal recovery (counties), and Section 604 states \$9 million for capital projects fund," he said.

To ease the process for the CNMI to spend the money, the government has changed some rules in its procurement process to do away with some potential chokepoints. "We have been working on improving our procurement process so that we can spend quicker," said Atalig. "In fact, last Friday we published our new procurement rights and if you do business with the government, I'd recommend to go in there and take a look at... the whole procurement process that has been updated. It took over a year and a half to do this as part of improving processes so that we can continue to do good business with the private sector in a reasonable time."

Atalig said the administration of President Joe Biden has its eye on better infrastructure, which is why there's an infrastructure bill in motion that he's trying to get passed in the U.S. Congress by the end of the month. "That's almost a complete package of over \$3 trillion again."

Under Section 604 of ARPA where \$9 million is allocated for infrastructure, it will be specifically used in three areas—water, sewer, and broadband. "...There are other areas in our book that talks about funding for infrastructure. ...We hope to get a sizable amount and definitely exciting for the business community and for projects in the city."

Atalig said that Section 602 that allocates \$483 million have four areas where it would be spent by percentage—21% to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and non-profits or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality; 6% to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the state, territory, or tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work; 52% for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction of revenue; and 21% to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

"The last part that talks about 21% infrastructure is separate from Section 604 but we're allocating monies for water, sewer, broadband infrastructure. ...The governor has prioritized infrastructure to two major homestead projects so that we can get some of our people homestead properties for that and hopefully stir up economic development because they'll start building. ...I have a detailed plan and I'm just preparing for the U.S. Treasury's guidance on how to report our spending plan to get the funding which the U.S. Treasury is scheduled to give by Monday," Atalig said.

"Section 603 is the amount of monies that will be going to the municipalities...and we're going to use the same formula that was given to us by U.S. Congress and split it once we get the exact amount. ...Our calculation is about \$13.1 million and we'll split this up equally among the four mayors, the rest of it by population. ...The next section is the allocation for [Section] 604 which is for just capital improvements and projects, and this is about \$14 million coming to the CNMI, and all the three areas we can use this on, again, is water, sewer and broadband and that is the make-up of the ARPA funds," he added.

According to Atalig, 50% of funds will be released soon and 50% by Feb. 10, 2022. "So we have until December 2024 to spend these funds. ...We don't know if there is going to be any extension but we are planning to spend before December 2024. ...As for transparency...we started a financial system that is going to be 'live' and my hope is before January of next year. We implemented a new chart of account for allocated funds so when the list comes out we will have a portal that can be viewed by the public or have it posted on our website.

"We have hired several people just to manage specifically these funds. ...These funds are going to every department and agency...for a lot of different projects and so we are going to track these," he added.

This slew of money is from the \$4.5 billion allocated to the five territories that includes American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Half of that amount or \$2.25 billion was equally divided among the five territories for 2021. That amount to about \$450 million for each one. However, other funding added to the amount going to each territory eventually boosted the total amount to \$507 million, as in the case of the CNMI. The other half of the \$4.5 billion will be divided equally and given to the five territories in 2022.

A weekly flyer for Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store. The top left features the store's logo with 'Customers First' and 'TRIPLE J'. The top right shows the 'THIS WEEK'S BIG Sale' banner with 'SHOP NOW!' and 'MAY 07 - 13'. A blue oval on the right says 'WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS' with the NAP logo. The center is filled with various items on sale, including furniture like a dressing table, dining sets, and wardrobes, as well as food items like meat, vegetables, and desserts. The bottom section highlights 'DOUBLE POINTS OF THE WEEK!' and 'NOT YET A MEMBER? SIGN UP! IT'S FREE!' with a sign-up offer.

Judiciary's return to Guma Hustisia expected by summer's end

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary, which is currently operating in different buildings on Saipan while the Guma Hustisia is undergoing repairs and renovation, expects to return to its Susupe building by the end of summer this year. This was learned during last

Tuesday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, which featured Judiciary officials who presented on the Judiciary's many completed and future initiatives, including the proclamation of Law Week, moving back into Guma Hustisia, the renovation of Guma Hustisia's entrance, its air-conditioning

system and renovation of its skylight, and the digitization of Commonwealth Recorder's Office records.

Sonia A. Camacho, who is the director of Courts, said the Judiciary expects a phased return to Guma Hustisia. Currently, the Judiciary operates out of office spaces and a courtroom at the Marianas

Business Plaza, two court-rooms on the second floor of the Guma Hustisia, the Drug Court operating out of the Karidat Center in Chalan Kanoa, and the J.C. Tenorio Enterprise Building in Susupe.

Separately, Law Clerk Carmen V. Borja presented on public laws passed to allow the Commonwealth Recorder's

Office to digitize its records. She said a request for proposal for an electronic filing vendor has already been issued. So far, maps filed up to 2019 have already been scanned by the Recorder's Office.

Besides Camacho and Borja, the other Rotary guests from the Judiciary were Justice John A. Manglona, law

clerks Brendan Layde and Emily Dombrowski, acting clerk of the Supreme Court Nora V. Borja, and judicial assistant Josephine Estrada. It was Justice Perry B. Inos, who is a Rotary member, who welcomed them at the meeting.

Further details will be disclosed in a future press release from the Judiciary.

MHS hosts music tribute to graduating seniors, vice principals

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School's music program held a musical tribute to the school's graduating class and its two vice principals last Tuesday and yesterday at the MHS cafeteria, under the guidance of music teacher Gina Aguilar.

Called "A Music Tribute for the Class of 2021 and Honoring Vice Principals Mrs. Rdiall and Mr. Orsini," the event featured the MHS Chorale, seven singing cohorts made up of students from Aguilar's four Music class periods, an orchestra,

the MHS Dolphin Band, and the MHS Concert Band.

The Chorale performed a traditional worship song, *Sing O Heavens*, and *I'll Be There* by The Jackson 5, while some highlights from the event's multiple cohorts include *Best Friend* by Rex Orange County, *Viva La Vida* by Coldplay, and *Stand by Me* by Ben King.

The student orchestra played *Por Una Cabeza* and *City of Stars* from the movie *La La Land*, while the Dolphin Band played favorites like *Ride* by Twenty One Pilots and *Rewrite the Stars* by Anne-Marie & James Arthur.

JOSHUA SANTOS
The MHS Chorale performs *I'll Be There* by the Jackson 5 during the "Music Tribute for the Class of 2021 and Honoring the Vice Principals Mrs. Rdiall & Mr. Orsini" at the MHS Cafeteria on May 4 and 5.

The MHS Concert Band performed three of their best pieces: *Afterburn* by Randall D. Standridge, music from Pixar's *The Incredibles*, and *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars.

In his closing remarks, MHS vice principal Romolo Orsini wished for MHS' senior class to follow their passions and to remain authentic and genuine as they go through the next phases of their lives.

"I am just so humbled by the talent that each and every one of our students possess, and more so I would really like to encourage their parents, families, and their teachers to really bring them up. Our [students] have the capacity to really make a difference in the world and whether that be through art or regular classes, they're the change we really are looking for and they're really doing it now," said Orsini.



NEW WAVE DENTAL

Is looking to hire one (1) employee to work as

Dental Assistant
New (Full-Time)

- Minimum 12 months clinical experience, Must be able to assist dentist, know sterilization, set-up instruments, take radiographs.
- Familiar in dental terminologies and CDT Code.

All interested applicants can apply via email by sending his/her resume to Dr. Michael Hall at email address newwavedentalsaipan@hotmail.com, interested applicant may also submit his/her resume or CV at the office located in Microbeach Road, Garapan, Saipan from Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday during office hours from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, interested applicant may also call Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number (670) 233-3300 during office hours from Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/CCDF-077

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 20, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR SAIPAN (B) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR TINIAN (CIF TINIAN), (C) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR ROTA (CIF ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: May 06, 2021 CLOSING DATE: May 14, 2021 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2021-022	2-Staff Engineer Civil/Structural	\$70,000-\$100,000.00 per annum - Ungraded

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Attorney-at-Law, San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
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Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jps@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Marilyn Lagrason Mendiola

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
IN THE) Civil Action
MATTER) No. 21-0140
ESTATE OF:) NOTICE OF HEARING
THOMAS MASGA) AND NOTICE TO
MENDIOLA,) CREDITORS
Decedent.)

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND
CREDITORS OF: THOMAS MASGA MENDIOLA**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Marilyn Lagrason Mendiola for the issuance of letters testamentary will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 27th day of May, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 205, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jps@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, **THOMAS MASGA MENDIOLA**, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2021.
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Public warned of rip currents until tonight

There is a high risk of rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota along east facing reefs through Thursday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, life-threatening rip currents will be present in east facing reefs of the Marianas until tonight.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If possible, swim parallel to the shoreline, then head in to shore when you are out of the current. (PR)

Ohala Foundation to hold donation drive on Saipan



The Ohala Foundation will be conducting a roadside collection on May 7 and 8 at the San Jose intersection (Atkins Kroll Saipan) in order to raise money to create food boxes for those in need on the Island of Rota. The foun-

dation will also be accepting gently used clothing, canned, and packaged foods and drinks at the pavilion closest to the intersection.

"We recently returned from the island of Rota and met with their leadership and members of the community down there. The struggle that the people

[on] Tinian and Saipan are feeling are echoed down [on] Rota on a deeper level, thus the Ohala Foundation and its Warriors (volunteers) and Angels (supporters) are going to come together and collect as many resources as we can for our brothers and sisters [on] Rota," said foundation chair Phillip Mendiola-Long.

Motorists are advised to be aware of the Ohala volunteers as they work to collect funds and organize dropped donations of clothes and food.

The Ohala Foundation has provided assistance to over 400 families on Tinian, are



From left, Mark Sablan, Atkins Kroll sales consultant; Kevin Ada, AK sales consultant; Kevin Barnes, AK sales manager; Patty Palacios, MAW board member; Liza Taylor, AK sales consultant; Jay Santos, MAW board member; Carlene Sablan, MAW board member; "Didi" Junping Woodruff, AK sales consultant; Kim Calage, AK sales consultant; and Joel Lesh, AK vice president and general manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll donates to Make-A-Wish Foundation

Atkins Kroll Saipan and its Community Matters program donated \$1,000 to representatives of the Make-A-Wish Foundation yesterday in the Toyota showroom.

"We hope that today's donation will assist in making a wish come true for one of the CNMI's children facing a critical illness. While

the CNMI and the rest of the world are still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, we tend to forget that children in our community face severe challenges of serious health conditions. Our donation also includes our thoughts and well-wishes for speedy recoveries," said Joel Lesh, AK Saipan vice president and gen-

eral manager.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam & CNMI serves the islands of Guam and the Northern Marianas, granting the wishes of medically eligible children who are between the ages of 2-1/2 and 18.

Community Matters is Atkins Kroll's "care for the community" program.

Its purpose is to contribute value and support where possible to non-profit organizations or endeavors in their charitable or community pursuit to help make the CNMI a better place to live, work, and play. Atkins Kroll will accept nominations for its next \$1,000 donation from non-profit organizations and other community endeavors. (PR)

currently preparing to begin services on Rota, and eventually the island of Saipan for people that are facing food shortages

Interested donors can reach out to the foundation by visiting ohalafoundation.org or by calling (670) 433-2664. (PR)

MINA's Green Gala is back

■ Green Business of the Year Award: A business that is committed to conservation and has incorporated the green business culture through its entire company.

Nominations must include: 1) Your name and contact information; 2) Your nominee and the category nominated for, and 3) a brief narrative describing your nominee's efforts at environmental conservation. Submit your nominations on or before June 30, 2021 to minaoutreach@gmail.com.

Remember to save Sept. 10 on your calendars. MINA said that all COVID-19 preventative measures as recommended by the COVID-19 Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be observed.

Nominations are now being accepted for these awards for individuals and organizations in the following categories:

■ Environmental Champion Award: An individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the environment and conservation of our natural resources.

■ Environmental Heroes Award: A school, public or private, whose dedication to the environment is echoed through its students and their efforts to conserve our natural resources.

Tickets have always sold out for past Green Galas, so be on the lookout for updates about one of Saipan's premiere events to secure your tickets early.

For more information about sponsorship of the Green Gala or MINA's programs, call 233-7333, or email Roberta Guerrero at rguerrero.mina@gmail.com. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 038

Opening Date: April 26, 2021 • Closing Date: May 7, 2021

POSITION TITLE: Human Resources Generalist	DEPARTMENT: COA/Human Resources
LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA	ANNUAL SALARY: \$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT: Contracted	POSITION(S): One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Generalist. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Gathers and analyzes pertinent employee information.
- Inputs data into system in a timely manner monitors and maintain information stored in data system and update data whenever it is needed.
- Generates all daily reports in a timely manner, i.e., daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to the immediate HR manager.
- Maintains and updates electronic and paper documents for the purpose of public information, trainings, meetings, case management and client information to the HR Manager.
- Responsible for keeping and organizing of filing system of all incoming and outgoing correspondences.
- Compiles and assist HR Manager in preparation and finalization of letters, memos and reports for each division.
- Prepares request for personnel actions for signature of approving authority.
- Assists and/or participates in the preparation of applications and other documents and forms.
- Provides technical, analysis, research assistance of computer activities, problems, and issues.
- Familiarize and be able to maintain electronic technology provided by the department such as printers, fax, scanners, etc.
- Must be able to troubleshoot certain issues pertaining to electronics. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.
- Perform other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying the applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet timesensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

It was a genocide: Biden affirms a historical fact

President Joe Biden's proper labeling as genocide the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire more than a century ago fulfills a long-overdue historical duty that his White House predecessors have cowardly avoided.

The mass deportations, murders and death marches of the ancient Christian nation living among a Muslim majority began with the arrests of leading Armenians by the Ottomans on April 24, 1915, during World War I. The Ottomans were allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary against Russia, France and Britain.

Maybe the Ottomans thought that Armenians residing in their empire would be sympathetic to Russia or maybe they wanted to expel this minority. Either way, they launched a campaign of destruction against a civilian population with catastrophic results.

Perhaps the most important witness was the American ambassador, Henry Morgenthau Sr., whose son would be FDR's treasury secretary and whose grandson would be the longtime Manhattan district attorney.

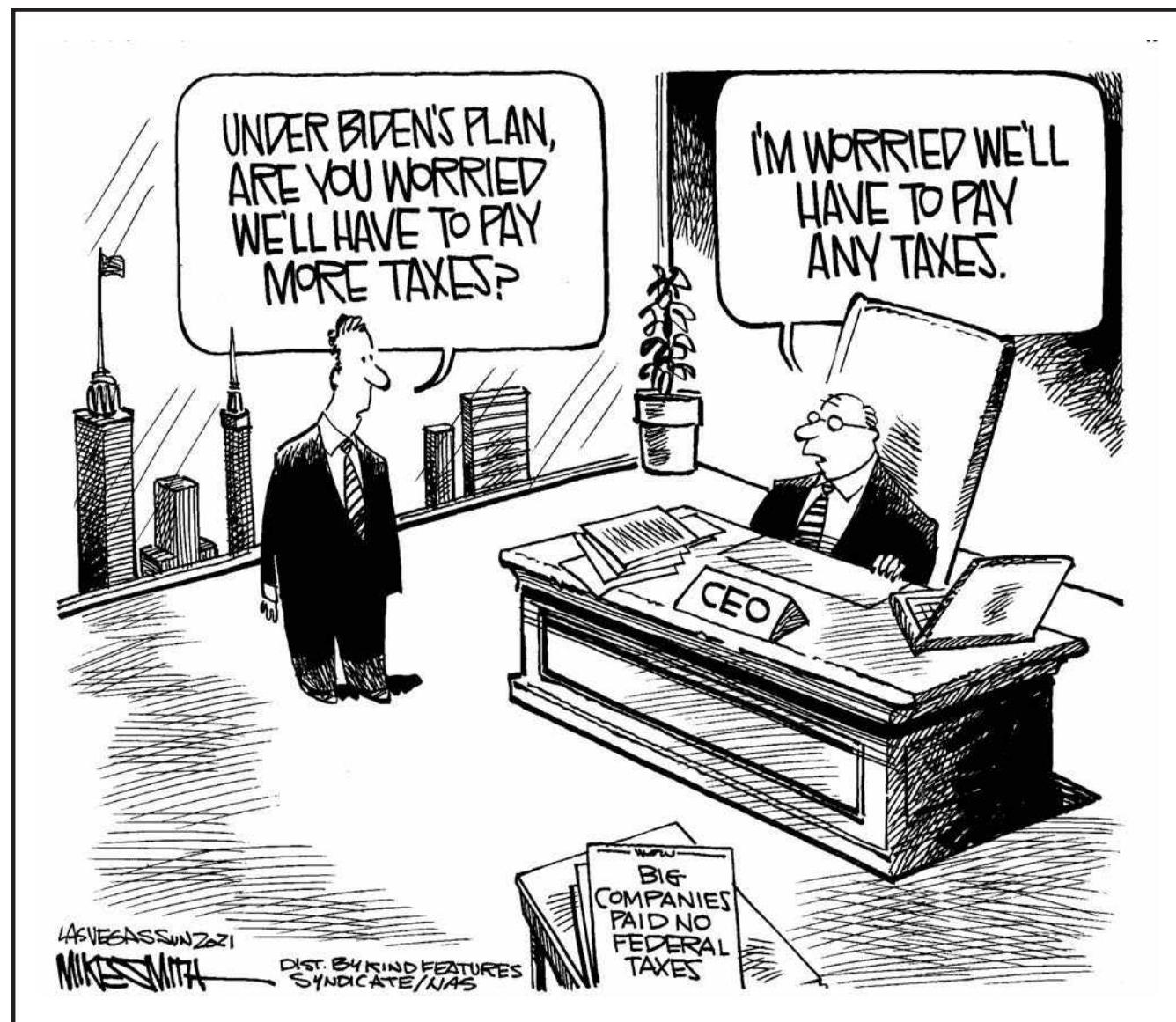
There was no word crime the ambassador saw, as "genocide" wouldn't be coined by Raphael Lemkin for another 30 years. But Lemkin included the Ottoman annihilation of the Armenians in the same category as the German extermination of the Jews: planned and willful killing of an ethnic group.

That it took decades for formal U.S. policy to catch up with Lemkin's clear definition was due to pressure from the modern Republic of Turkey, which wrongly sees an indictment of the defunct Ottoman Empire as a blemish on the Turks of today.

The huffing and puffing reaction of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was typical: "The U.S. president has made baseless, unjust and untrue remarks about the sad events that took place in our geography over a century ago. I hope the U.S. president will turn back from this wrong step as soon as possible."

Erdogan said that "you cannot pin the genocide accusation on the Turkish people." No one is. The Ottomans did the crime, not the Turkish people. But the crime was genocide.

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Should we go to Mars? Let's not

What could be more natural than going to Mars? So far, civilization's essential narrative has been exploration, discovery and migration from parts of our planet that are short on resources and overpopulated into new territory.

This is undoubtedly why our ancestors weren't content to stay in Africa or, eventually, in Europe. In the 15th century we discovered the mother lode, a New World of seemingly unbounded resources populated only by a few souls who could be easily brushed aside. No wonder Europeans were eager to leave a continent that was crowded, oppressive and pestilential for a new continent with unlimited horizons.

Now we're pushing up against those horizons, not just in North America, but across the globe. The whole planet has become crowded, oppressive and pestilential. We're burning through our resources more rapidly than Earth can replace them. It's time to look for new territory, and the most likely option—well, the only option—is Mars.

In retrospect, this narrative seems inevitable, but it was always a series of choices driven by our unwillingness to live within the limits of local resources and the assumption that the resources elsewhere were unlimited.

In prospect, however, it's a mistake to assume that colonizing the solar system is an inevitable extension of the story that got us to this point. And it's a fatal mistake to assume that Mars and beyond can serve as the safety valve that permits us to continue to ignore the problems that are making a decent life on Earth an increasingly sketchy proposition.

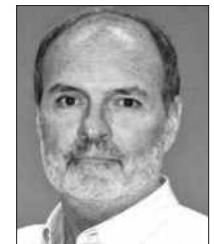
Humankind's instinct for exploration cannot be denied. Astronaut Michael Collins put it this way: "It's human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand. Exploration is not a choice, really, it's an imperative."

And Collins did indeed go, to the moon. He piloted Apollo 11's command module in orbit around the moon in 1969 while Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface 69 miles below. Collins died last week at age 90.

But the third member of the Apollo 11 crew and the second man to step onto the moon has a more expansive perspective on exploration. Two years ago in The Washington Post, Buzz Aldrin said that Mars is ripe for discovery, "not by clever robots and rovers ... but by living, breathing, walking, talking, caring and

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcristpcolumns@gmail.com.



daring men and women."

Aldrin advocates for a "great migration of humankind to Mars." He says that human nature demands "continued outward reach into the universe" and suggests that the survival of our species potentially depends on "permanent migration to the red planet."

Aldrin longs to see the American flag planted on Mars, along with a plaque that reads—in naïve contradiction to humankind's history of exploration—"We Come in Peace for All Mankind."

Our explorations always had a subtext, the exploitation of new lands and resources when the old ones were near exhaustion. But this narrative may have reached a natural dead end at the limits of our atmosphere.

As far as we know, Earth is unique, and humankind has evolved to exist in its unique ecological niche. Consequently, human migration to other planets makes as much sense as transferring a herd of elephants from the wilds of Africa to Central Park or, since we're talking about Mars, to the Mojave Desert.

Do let's continue to explore. The impulse to explore and discover occupies a prominent place in the human psyche. Thus the Perseverance rover currently sits on the surface of Mars, and its small helicopter is making excursions into the surroundings.

But the survival of our species cannot rely on fantasies of migration to other planets. In fact, entertaining such fantasies works against a realistic understanding of our tiny corner of the universe and our place in it. The survival of our species requires learning to live in the place that we evolved to inhabit.

Did the capacity to live within our resources evolve along with our drive to explore? Let's hope so. A failure to figure out how to survive on Earth before we try to go elsewhere will be fatal.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If the US is going to tackle infrastructure, let's start with shipyards

President Joe Biden unveiled a bountiful \$2 trillion infrastructure plan at his 100 Days address to Congress—with seemingly something for everybody, from electric vehicles to elder care. But for the sake of our national defense, there is one area of actual infrastructure which warrants attention now: U.S. Navy shipyards.

If we are going to make an investment in America, the four government-owned, government-operated Navy shipyards are great candidates for infrastructure spending.

First, they are vitally important to the national defense. These four yards maintain the Navy's entire nuclear-powered fleet, which includes aircraft carriers, attack submarines, and ballistic missile submarines.

Secondly, the shipyards desperately need the investment: all four yards are over 100 years old, and their facilities were gradually built during very different eras of shipbuilding. Today, these facilities struggle with a workload beyond capacity for nuclear maintenance, creating big problems—and big delays—for aircraft carriers and a growing submarine fleet.

The Navy already knows exactly how to bring its shipyards into the 21st century. The Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan, the SIOP, is a state-of-the-art plan for a total re-engineering of each Navy shipyard using digital modeling. But because the Navy is strapped for funds, the available funding that the Navy can apply to this plan will not be enough, given the need to grow the fleet to keep pace with the Chinese and Russian fleets.

The Navy submitted the SIOP to Congress back in 2018 and has been pursuing it since. But two issues remain—both of which should be addressed through legislation.

The first is that the SIOP is a 20-year plan that depends on just-in-time funding, through annual defense appropriations, for a long series of projects. If funding for one dry-dock reconstruction project is delayed in a fiscal year (for example), the effects would ripple effect across the entire plan, as well as the entire

maintenance schedule, for the nuclear-powered fleet.

Other funding solutions could resolve this problem and give the Navy guaranteed, consistent funding to complete the plan. One bipartisan proposal by Sens. Roger Wicker, Tim Kaine, Susan Collins, Angus King and Jeanne Shaheen (with companion legislation in the House by Reps. Rob Wittman and Mike Gallagher) would use the Defense Production Act to fund the entire SIOP with a one-time, \$21 billion payment to the Navy. Such a move would provide the Navy access to consistent funding it needs to ensure it can bring its shipyards up to date.

The second concern with the SIOP is its scope. The plan addresses problems at the current shipyards, to meet the needs of the current fleet, but not the future fleet. Most experts believe the fleet must grow and change to meet 21st century needs. The Navy's latest 30-year shipbuilding plan also include novel new unmanned platforms with evolving maintenance and sustainability requirements to consider, too.

Additionally, to execute the SIOP at the existing yards, some degree of maintenance disruption will take place as new facilities are built to replace outdated ones and dry docks are expanded. As such, the Navy will need excess maintenance capacity now for its submarines and aircraft carriers, and for a larger fleet in coming years.

Bottom line: The fleet needs more shipyard capacity both in commercial and the public shipyards to ensure a ready fleet today and into the future. Efforts to address this shortfall should be supported, especially given the fact that the decommissioning of the USS Bonhomme Richard after a severe fire last summer was due to an inability to effect repairs of the ship without jeopardizing critical maintenance or new construction.

The Navy had eight shipyards as recently as 1996 for a fleet of 359 ships (103 of them nuclear powered), and decisions to close those facilities were meant to realize a post-Cold War peace divi-

**By BRENT D.
SADLER and
MAIYA CLARK**
Tribune News Service



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dend. Now the U.S.'s geopolitical outlook has changed, and the calculus for proper amounts of ship maintenance capacity should change in kind.

A new Navy shipyard, perhaps on the West Coast, would be particularly important to timely maintenance for top priority Pacific operations. And of course, needed new entrants into the maritime sector who can grow ship-building and sustainment capacity, while spurring innovation as the Navy grows its fleet and fields a new armada that can capture the imagination of a future generation of naval architects, shipyard workers, and sailors.

While the debate on our nation's infrastructure heats up, it would be a mistake not to consider the Navy's and the nation's maritime industry as strategic infrastructure. Efforts to reverse the slow erosion of the nation's shipyards are a welcome change to decades of divesture of naval infrastructure.

By funding the SIOP and building new shipyard capacity, Congress and the Biden administration have the opportunity to reverse a decades-long disinvestment and atrophy of naval infrastructure—and use this spending to fulfill a constitutional duty to provide and maintain the nation's Navy.

The Supreme Court debates the all-powerful F-word

The F-word will soon be coming to the nation's most august courtroom—again.

This time, it will get there courtesy of B.L., an anonymous young woman who wrote a profanity-filled Snapchat post after she was rejected for her high school's varsity cheerleading team. Her post—and her school's decision to punish her for it—has ignited a free speech case that will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court next week.

But B.L. was not the first to focus the justices' attention on the F-word. That distinction belongs to Paul Robert Cohen, whose case 50 years ago resulted in a landmark decision on the 1st Amendment and the regulation of profanity.

Cohen's long legal saga began in Los Angeles on April 26, 1968, when he went to the county courthouse in downtown L.A. wearing a jacket that had the phrase "F--- the draft" stenciled on the back (except that the word was fully spelled out).

Cohen, who was 19 at the time, says he was not trying to cause a confrontation. Nevertheless, he was promptly arrested for "maliciously and willfully disturb[ing] the peace or quiet ... by offensive conduct." Rather than go to jail for 30 days, he challenged his conviction, fighting it all the way up through California courts and beyond. In the spring of 1971, his case reached the U.S. Supreme Court, where nine aging justices, all men, were called upon to decide whether the F-word was indeed "unprintable language" that could be banned by the government, despite the free speech protections of the Constitution.

It's difficult to remember now just how seriously some people took profanity in those days. It often had been deemed punishable by law and was widely viewed as inherently offensive, especially to women and children.

Before oral arguments in Cohen vs. California, Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Nixon appointee, went to Cohen's lawyer, Melville Nimmer, and asked him to not use the offending word in the courtroom. According to Thomas G. Krattenmaker,

a clerk at the time for Justice John Marshall Harlan, Burger said he didn't want anyone to "use that word" because it "would be the end of the court."

But times were changing. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a new generation was waging battles against its elders over moral restrictions on sex and squeamish attitudes toward profanity and obscenity, and many young people liked to say, justifiably, that the use of the F-word was hardly as offensive as the killing of civilians in Vietnam.

David Nimmer, the son of Cohen's lawyer, told me: "I was 16 years old sitting in the Supreme Court gallery when my father ignored Chief Justice Burger's admonition" and spoke the offending word before the justices.

It was a risky decision, but it did not bring down the walls of the courthouse after all.

Cohen was an unlikely free-speech champion. I tried and failed to reach him for this column, but he said in a 2016 interview with the Freedom Forum Institute that a woman he met the night before his arrest had stenciled the offending words on his jacket. "I wasn't trying to make a political statement," he said. He added, "I had a PhD in partying back in those days." In explaining why he fought all the way to the Supreme Court, Cohen said that he simply didn't want to serve the 30 days. He didn't attend the oral argument at the Supreme Court.

In the end, a divided court ruled narrowly—5 to 4—in favor of Cohen. Justice Harry Blackmun, in a curmudgeonly dissent, said that the case was all about an "absurd and immature antic" and that "this court's agonizing over First Amendment values seems misplaced and unnecessary."

But the majority disagreed, and Justice Harlan wrote a strong pro-speech decision. The message on Cohen's jacket wasn't incitement to violence, Harlan wrote, because it didn't constitute "fighting words" directed at a person. It wasn't obscenity because it wasn't erotic. The offending language wasn't "thrust upon" people unwittingly, because they could simply avert their

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times



Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

eyes. The court rejected the notion that the government could act as "guardian of the public morality" in excising "one particular scurrilous epithet from public discourse."

And Cohen's underlying message about the draft merited constitutional protection, despite the manner in which he chose to express it.

"While the particular four-letter word being litigated here is perhaps more distasteful than most others of its genre," wrote Harlan, "it is nevertheless often true that one man's vulgarity is another's lyric."

Today, half a century has passed and we're still fighting over the F-word. This newspaper won't use it spelled out except on the rarest of occasions. Society still imbues it with a certain ability to shock, to insult, to enrage. That's why B.L., a Pennsylvania schoolgirl, is before the Supreme Court now, all these years later. The question in *Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L.* is whether her school can punish her for what she said on Snapchat ("f--- school f--- softball f--- cheer f--- everything.") even though she was not at school when she wrote and posted it.

Once again the justices will be forced to consider the word and its power, and the right of the authorities to police it.

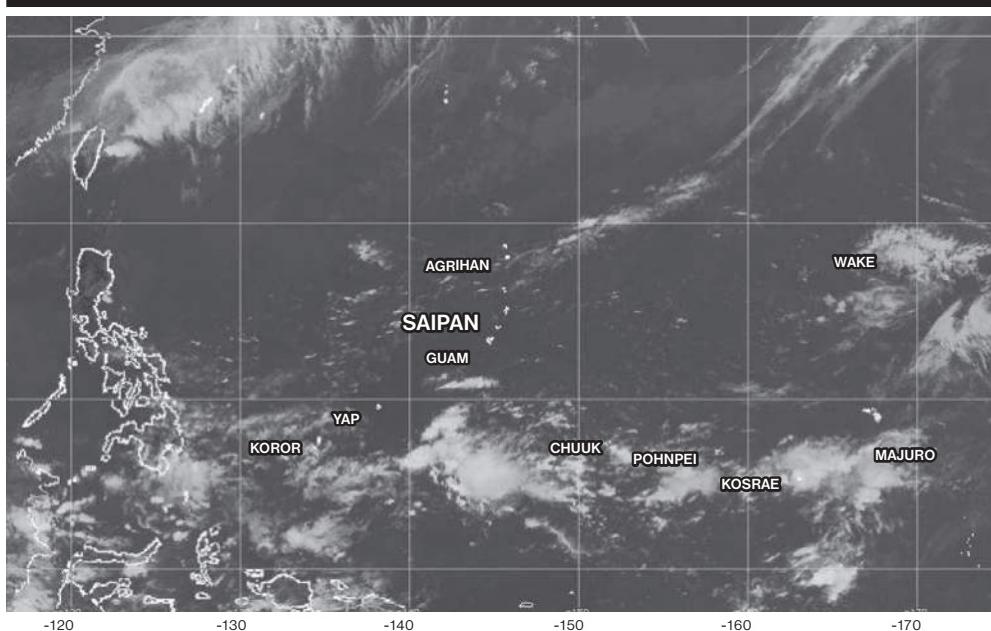
This time the language wasn't used to comment on a burning social issue. But isn't it time we got over our squeamishness?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
76°	86°	76°	86°	76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:44 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, isolated showers and fresh trade winds are found across the Marianas waters this morning. Seas at the buoys are bouncing between 6 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87 79 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	87 78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	83 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86 80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:22 AM	2:15 PM	-
Friday	3:00 AM	3:04 PM	-
Saturday	3:36 AM	3:51 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	4:37 PM	-
Monday	4:45 AM	5:24 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Sunny	61 49 °F
Beijing	Thunderstorms	86 73 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 76 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	84 73 °F
London	Overcast	57 50 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	79 61 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	90 78 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58 45 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	85 76 °F
New York	Sunny	74 52 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	75 56 °F
Paris	Cloudy	59 45 °F
Pusan	Sunny	83 53 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72 51 °F
Salem	Cloudy	63 52 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	76 55 °F
Seoul	Sunny	85 54 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	71 56 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	68 52 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:44 AM	High Tide	1.91
11:00 AM	Low Tide	0.97
3:59 PM	High Tide	1.52
10:28 PM	Low Tide	0.45

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 4, 5, 6				UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 4, 5, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:30am 8:50pm 5 via Guam				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 7:05pm 8:50pm 5				UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5			
UA183 7:15pm 9:10pm 1, 3,				UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3,			

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2

As You Like It

Sold out performances, rave reviews, and a close-knit stage family: Last weekend, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club continued its ongoing 25th anniversary celebration with an adaptation of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, from which the iconic line and the club's slogan, "All the world's a stage," comes. Photos used with permission.

PHOTOS BY MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL



Business

Amelda's Market: Quality products at low prices



Amelda's Market is located along Middle Road in Gualo Rai across J's Restaurant.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Established last month, Amelda's Market is your new grocery store that is located along Middle Road across J's Restaurant. Its location is perfect for office workers and residents because it is in the middle of several offices and a nice neighborhood offering customers accessibility and convenience for their shopping needs.

According to store supervisor Leovert S. Estoper, Amelda's Market focuses on its two unique selling points—low prices and quality products. "We offer low prices than most of the other supermarkets out here. While other markets put 20% to 30% mark up on their goods, we do 5% and when people come here, they will see the difference and realize our goods are really affordable... we know the situation of the local people and we are here for them. For as long as we can offer good service and a mark up of only 2 cents to 3 cents we hope that customers will come and check what we have," he said.

"We take pride in having quality control to manage and supervise every product or item in our store. We do that by checking each products everyday—quality and expiration dates as no customer would like to buy expired items. We

make sure that our items are good and fresh," he added.

Estoper said that Amelda's Market is owned by longtime businesswoman Nilda D. Sison. "This is not Miss Sison first business as she managed a manpower and security agency and was also into general construction. But due to the pandemic, the income was slow so she decided to diversify into a different business venture which is now Amelda's Market," he said.

"Of all the possible business on island, she thought that a supermarket is a staple need in the community and it's a growing business. We sell products that are 'necessities'—food, drinks, medicine, etc. we also sell beauty products such as skin balm and rejuvenating set that are very affordable," he added.

Estoper said that every cus-

tomer is important no matter how big or small the purchase may be. "We want them to walk out of Amelda's Market feeling satisfied and comfortable with our goods and service. Although we are still new, we want the community to know that we have almost everything they need in their every day activities whether at home or at work," he said.

"We offer diverse products at low prices. Our store is just about the right size—not too crowded so customers are assured of stress-free shopping... We also follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols," he added.

Amelda's Market is open Monday to Sunday from 7am to 10pm. For more information, call (670) 233-4796 or (670) 785-4798. They are also on FaceBook: Amelda's Market.



Amelda's Market owner Nilda D. Sison and store supervisor Leovert S. Estoper guarantee quality goods at low prices.

BEA CABRERA



Amelda's Market is spacious, clean, and all items on shelves are organized.

BEA CABRERA

Nation

IN FIGHT WITH TRUMP OVER GOP FUTURE Liz Cheney could be 'toast'

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy wants his party to stand firmly with Donald Trump, despite the former president's false claims about the election being stolen from him.

No. 3 GOP leader Liz Cheney is trying to steer the party far from Trump's claims about his defeat, charting a future without him.

The party, it became more apparent Tuesday, does not have room for both.

Cheney's political future was increasingly in peril as McCarthy signaled he would no longer protect his lieutenant from those seeking her ouster from House GOP leadership, opening the possibility of a vote to remove her from the job as soon as next week. One Republican aide granted anonymity to discuss the situation said simply, "She's toast."

What could be seen as a skirmish between minority party leaders trying to find a way back to the majority has become a more politically profound moment for Republicans and the country. The party of

Abraham Lincoln is deciding whether to let Trump's false claims about the election of Democrat Joe Biden go unchecked—or to hold him accountable, as Cheney does, by arguing the country cannot "whitewash" the former president's role in the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

"This is a much bigger issue than the future of the Republican Party," said Timothy Naftali, an associate professor at New York University and founding director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.

"This is about the future of our democracy."

The standoff has been intensifying ever since Cheney led a group of 10 House Republicans voting with Democrats to impeach Trump on a charge of incitement of insurrection over the Jan. 6 siege, the worst domestic mob attack on the Capitol in the nation's history.

Not only was her effort an affront to Trump, still president at the time, but it was out of step with most House Republicans, including the 138 who voted against certifying

Chauvin's lawyer seeks new trial, hearing to impeach verdict

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The defense attorney for the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of killing George Floyd has requested a new trial, saying the court abused its discretion, and he wants a hearing to have the verdict impeached because of what he says is jury misconduct, according to a court document filed Tuesday.

Derek Chauvin, who is white, was convicted last month of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the May 25 death of Floyd. Evidence at trial showed Chauvin pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes as the Black man said he couldn't breathe and went motionless.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson said he is requesting a new trial in the interests of justice. He said there were abuses of discretion that deprived Chauvin of a fair trial, prosecutorial and jury misconduct and that the verdict was contrary to law.

A request for a new trial is routine following a guilty verdict and often mirrors is-

sues that will be raised on appeal, said Mike Brandt, a Minneapolis defense attorney who has been closely following the case.

If this request is denied, it can add another layer of decisions for Nelson to appeal. Brandt and others have said Chauvin's convictions are unlikely to be overturned.

Nelson cited many reasons in his request for a new trial.

He said Judge Peter Cahill abused the discretion of the court and violated Chauvin's right to due process and a fair trial when he denied Nelson's request to move the trial to another county due to pretrial publicity.

He also said Cahill abused his discretion when he denied an earlier request for a new trial based on publicity during the proceedings, which Nelson said threatened the fairness of the trial. Nelson said that publicity included "intimidation" of the defense expert witness, which he said could have a "far-reaching chilling effect" on the ability of defendants to get expert witnesses in high-profile cases, including the upcoming cases of the three other former officers charged in

the Electoral College vote for Biden's victory. However, others, including Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., who voted to impeach Trump, see Cheney as the "truth-telling" GOP leader the nation needs.

Some fellow Republicans tried to oust her from her leadership position, but they failed in February in a secret party ballot, 145-61, in part because McCarthy urged his troops to remain unified against Democrats.

But the divisions have now widened into a fight for the party's future as it navigates a post-Trump world.

McCarthy and Cheney are offering their colleagues two theories of the path forward.

McCarthy, who would be in line for the speaker's gavel if the GOP wins House control, wants to keep Trump voters active in the party and attract new supporters. He believes this is accomplished by keeping Trump engaged, dashing down to the former president's private club in Florida for support and drawing on his connection with the man who referred to him as "My Kevin."

Floyd's death.

"The publicity here was so pervasive and so prejudicial before and during this trial that it amounted to a structural defect in the proceedings," Nelson wrote.

Nelson also took issue with Cahill's refusal to sequester the jury for the trial or warn them to avoid all media, and with his refusal to allow a man who was with Floyd at the time of his arrest to testify.

Nelson said Cahill also abused his discretion when he submitted jury instructions that Nelson said failed to accurately reflect the law on the murder charges and use of force, permitted the state to present cumulative evidence on use of force, and ordered the state to lead witnesses on direct examination, among other things.

Nelson also asked the judge for a hearing to impeach the verdict on the grounds that the jury committed misconduct, felt race-based pressure, felt intimidated or threatened, and/or failed to adhere to jury instructions, though the filing did not include details about that assertion. To impeach a verdict is to question its validity.

World

Overpass collapse on Mexico City metro kills at least 24

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The death toll from the collapse of an overpass on the Mexico City metro rose to 24 Tuesday as crews untangled train carriages from the steel and concrete wreckage that fell onto a roadway.

Monday night's accident was one of the deadliest in

'Horrible' weeks ahead as India's virus catastrophe worsens

NEW DELHI (AP)—COVID-19 infections and deaths are mounting with alarming speed in India with no end in sight to the crisis and a top expert warning that the coming weeks in the country of nearly 1.4 billion people will be "horrible."

India's official count of coronavirus cases surpassed 20 million Tuesday, nearly doubling in the past three months, while deaths officially have passed 220,000. Staggering as those numbers are, the true figures are believed to be far higher, the undercount an apparent reflection of the troubles in the health care system.

The country has witnessed scenes of people dying outside overwhelmed hospitals and funeral pyres lighting up the night sky.

Infections have surged in India since February in a disastrous turn blamed on more contagious variants of the virus as well as government decisions to allow massive crowds to gather for Hindu

Ex-minister: Bolsonaro eyed decree on chloroquine for COVID

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Former Health Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta said Tuesday that President Jair Bolsonaro had considered issuing a decree officially expanding the use of the anti-malarial drug chloroquine for COVID-19 patients in Brazil, though studies found it ineffective.

Bolsonaro, who has opposed stringent pandemic measures such as lockdowns on the grounds that they threaten Brazil's economy, has frequently touted the use of unproven anti-malarial drugs in treating COVID-19, most notably when he fell ill himself with the disease that can be caused by the coronavirus.

Mandetta provided more than six hours of testimony as part of a Senate investigation into the government's handling of the pandemic, which has killed 408,000 Brazilians. The government's insistent promotion of chloroquine and a less toxic version, hydroxychloroquine, is expected to be among the lawmakers' key lines of investigation.

Mandetta said he was called to a meeting in the presidential palace where he saw a draft of

the history of the subway, and questions quickly arose about the structural integrity of the mass transit system, among the world's busiest.

Another 27 people remained hospitalized of the more than 70 injured when the support beams collapsed about 10:30

religious festivals and political rallies before state elections.

The reported caseload is second only to that of the U.S., which has one-fourth the population of India but has recorded over 32 million confirmed infections. The U.S. has also reported more than 2 1/2 times as many deaths as India, at close to 580,000.

India's top health official, Rajesh Bhushan, refused to speculate last month as to why authorities weren't better prepared. But the cost is clear: Many people are dying because of shortages of bottled oxygen and hospital beds or because they couldn't get a COVID-19 test.

India's official average of newly confirmed cases per day has soared from over 65,000 on April 1 to about 370,000, and deaths per day have officially gone from over 300 to more than 3,000.

On Tuesday, the health ministry reported 357,229 new cases in the past 24 hours and

the decree on the table aimed at expanding chloroquine's use to include COVID-19 treatment. He said the president of Brazil's health regulator also was present and refused to get behind the decree.

"The only guidance on chloroquine that came from the (health) ministry was for compassionate use, when there was no other resource for critical patients," said Mandetta, who was fired by Bolsonaro in April 2020. "Our guidance was based on science. He (Bolsonaro) had parallel counselling."

Brazil's army has spent millions producing chloroquine, which throughout last year and into 2021 has been distributed to hospitals nationwide.

On several occasions, Bolsonaro has conceded that hydroxychloroquine isn't scientifically proven, while in the same breath encouraging its use. His current health minister, Marcelo Queiroga, said in an interview last month with the newspaper O Globo that "some observational studies" show benefits in early treatment, but declined to name which studies those might be.

p.m. as a train passed along the elevated section, Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said.

On Tuesday, a crane carefully lowered a train car containing four bodies to the ground.

Of the 24 killed, 21 died at the scene, while the others died at hospitals. Only five

3,449 deaths from COVID-19.

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's School of Public Health in the U.S., said he is concerned that Indian policymakers he has been in contact with believe things will improve in the next few days.

"I've been ... trying to say to them, 'If everything goes very well, things will be horrible for the next several weeks. And it may be much longer,'" he said.

Jha said the focus needs to be on "classic" public health measures: targeted shutdowns, more testing, universal mask-wearing and avoiding large gatherings.

"That is what's going to break the back of this surge," he said.

The death and infection figures are considered unreliable because testing is patchy and reporting incomplete. For example, government guidelines ask Indian states to include suspected COVID-19 cases when recording deaths from the outbreak, but many do not do so.

have been identified so far. Children were among the fatalities, Sheinbaum said.

On Tuesday afternoon, Carlos Miramar waited under a tent on metal chairs with two other relatives to receive the body of his uncle. The 25-year-old student had been awake since beginning an "exasperating" odyssey the previous night that took them to seven hospitals and multiple prosecutor's offices in search of his uncle.

Now they had found 38-year-old Carlos Pineda, a man he described as a soccer fan and buoyant personality. Pineda is survived by his wife, two children ages 7 and 13, and his mother.

"I'm tired and unable to sleep," Miramar said. "He didn't deserve this end. He was a good father, good husband and good son."

Initial analysis pointed to a "presumed structural failure," Sheinbaum said, promising a thorough and independent inquiry. She added that a Norwegian firm had been hired to investigate.

"I did not have any report nor alert of any problem that

could have led us to this situation," she said.

The overpass was about 5 meters (16 feet) above the road in the borough of Tlalhuac, but the train ran above a concrete median strip, which apparently lessened the casualties among motorists.

Abelardo Sánchez, a 38-year-old cook, was just closing up his sandwich shop beside the metro line when he said the ground shook, a tremendous noise echoed, lights flickered and the air filled with dust and the smell of burning wires.

Stunned, Sánchez didn't initially react. "Then a guy in a white shirt with blood on his arms, his hands and chest came out and another guy came to help him here on the sidewalk, and he was there trembling," he said.

The Mexico City Metro—which is among the world's cheapest with tickets costing about 25 cents—has had at least three serious accidents since its inauguration half a century ago. In March 2020,

a collision between two trains at the Tacubaya station left one passenger dead and injured 41. In 2015, a train that did not stop on time crashed into

another at the Oceania station, injuring 12. In October 1975, at least 26 people were killed in another accident.

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake in 2017 exposed dangerous construction defects in the elevated line near where Monday's accident occurred. Authorities at the time had done patchwork repairs on the columns and horizontal beams.

Julio Yañez, a 67-year-old lawyer whose apartment overlooks the collapsed metro line, was working at his computer when he heard a loud noise and felt his building shake. He saw a cloud of dust and falling debris followed by an eerie silence until emergency vehicles began arriving. Helicopters landed at a nearby Walmart to ferry the injured to hospitals.

The scene shook him because he had exited the metro at that same station earlier in the day.

"That part there was already declared bad ... in the earthquake, and the authorities didn't pay attention," Yañez said, noting similar problems were reported at another nearby station, but nothing was done. "They are time bombs."



In Celebration of his new life

**Erwin V.
Borlongan**

December 15, 1972 - May 1, 2021

He was survived by his family:

Spouse: Ma. Elena Borlongan

Children: Angela Nicole, Alyssa and Andrew

Funeral Details:

Date: May 7, 2021 (Friday)

Where: Marianas Christian Church (Susupe, Saipan)
(behind Mobil Susupe Gas Station, near basketball court)

7:00am - 7:55am - Public Viewing

8:00am - 9:00am - Memorial Service

9:05am - 10:00am - Final viewing



*"For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain."*

Philippians 1:21

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Schools are cradles for learning and values formation. With children spending most of their waking hours in schools, these educational institutions offer a structured avenue where young minds get molded and developed, hopefully, into becoming better citizens in the future.

Here in the CNMI, schools not only teach students their basic curriculum but also serve as partners, allies of government agencies, as well as non-government organizations, in helping children learn more about the environment. Schools also maintain environment projects—from tree-planting activities to recycling drives, to beach cleanups and coral restorations.

Tanapag Middle School, for one, has a Rain Garden Project, which they have been maintaining for about six years now, with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

"The rain garden came about because the Tanapag area is a flood zone area. When it rains, and it rains hard, the water just gushes down from the mountain-side into the school area and then into the village, right behind us," Tanapag Middle School principal Hilda Rios said, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

She added that what they wanted to do, and in conjunction with BECQ, was to start the project of a rain garden to help capture some of these runoffs so they do not go into the school, the village areas, and then into the ocean.

"[Rain gardens are] absolutely important in terms of protecting our waters. Our school is really just a few hundred feet away from the ocean, and we got to protect our biggest resource here—the waters that surround us. The rain garden does help with that tremendously, and our students have in the past."

The school's rain garden is one of four that the bureau installed and has been maintaining with its partners, with the other three in San Vicente Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and the NMI Museum of History and Culture. The rain gardens demonstrate a form of best management practice (BMP) to improve drainage on the island.

According to Division of Coastal Resources Management Watershed coordinator



IVA MAURIN

Tanapag Middle School principal Hilda Rios with staff from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality during the restoration of its Rain Garden Project. The school's rain garden is one of three that were installed by BECQ to demonstrate a form of best management practice to improve drainage on the island. The other schools are San Vicente Elementary School and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Learning about the environment in schools



IVA MAURIN

The overgrown rain garden at the Tanapag Middle School is being cleared by staff of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. The rain garden was installed to help capture runoffs from the mountains, when it rains, into the school zone area and then into the village area right behind the school.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tanapag Middle School principal Hilda Rios looks at the rain garden restored by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality last month. Rain gardens are planted in a depression meant to collect rainwater draining off roads, parking lots, or other areas where water could not soak into which flows downhill, picking up sediments that eventually end up in the ocean.

Zachary Williams, Saipan has a lot of impermeable spaces, areas where water cannot percolate or seep into the ground—such as roads, cement, sidewalks, rooftops, and buildings.

Because of these structures, water cannot get into the ground and recharge the aquifer. Especially in high slope areas, rain water also moves really fast on the ground and washes away sediments, causing sedimentation and erosion which impacts not just the land but also washes into the ocean.

"Rain gardens are a form of BMP to slow down water and help drain and sink water into the soil, so it improves [addresses] issues with ero-

sion and surface water, potential flooding. It also helps recharge the aquifer by allowing that water to settle in," Williams said.

He added that schools make a great place for a rain garden because not only does it help with drainage and habitat it also serves as an educational tool for students.

The rain garden at Tanapag Middle School is located on the school grounds, behind the Administrative Office, which students can easily see and learn from.

"The whole intention of the project is to help protect our oceans. For the most part, in the very beginning, the kids

helped maintain the rain garden... They sometimes try to connect it to their lessons in the classroom, especially with science," Rios shared.

"Our school has been very big in keeping the environment clean, helping our coastal areas. In addition to the rain garden, we have planted several mangrove trees, clean up the beaches. Our kids are big in the environment."

Schools champion recycling

With trash a major problem in the CNMI, schools play a big role in helping educate and inform families, through students, on the proper way to manage solid wastes.

To celebrate Environmental Awareness Month, and to further increase student awareness and involvement in waste re-

duction and recycling, BECQ, with the Department of Public Works, sponsored the "Recycling in the Marianas" competition, where Marianas High School, Da'ok Academy, and Isla Montessori won.

Division of Environmental Quality environmental specialist Marlyn Naputi stressed that it is important for schools to be teaching kids about recycling.

"First, recycling is an overall beneficial process for the environment and we have to make sure they have a safe and clean environment for their future. What better way to make sure of that than by teaching them at a young age? Teaching students the process of recycling might change their view on how they look at their solid waste for the better."

The schools collected re-

cyclable items such as cardboard/paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles, and delivered them to the DPW Recycling Center located at the Lower Base Transfer Station. DPW weighed and tracked each school's recyclable materials management during the competition.

The winning schools were determined by the highest total weight collected per recyclable category. Marianas High School won the Cardboard/Paper category with 2,220 lbs. collected; Da'ok Academy won the Plastic Bottles category with 740 lbs.; and Isla Montessori won the Aluminum Cans category with 120 lbs. collected. The schools won \$125.00 each.

Also winning through their achievements in waste reduction and recycling are these participating schools: Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, and Agape Christian School.

"School is an integral part of a child's life and encouraging good habits at a young age can help a child carry on those good habits throughout life. Not only can they learn about it in school but also implement what they learn in the school environment."

To learn more about rain gardens, contact Zachary Williams at zwilliams@dcrm.gov.mp or visit the CRM website at <https://dcrm.gov.mp>. For solid waste in schools, reach out to Marlyn Naputi at 664-8545 or marlyn.naputi@becq.gov.mp.

Life & Style

Bruce Springsteen receives this year's Woody Guthrie Prize

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Bruce Springsteen has won the 2021 Woody Guthrie Prize, which is given to an artist seen as carrying on the spirit of the folk singer whose music focused on the plight of the poor and disenfranchised.

Guthrie, who grew up in Okemah, Oklahoma, was one of the most important figures in American folk music and penned hundreds of songs, including some that The Boss has performed over the years.

"Woody wrote some of the greatest songs about America's struggle to live up to its ideals in convincing fashion," Springsteen said in a statement Tuesday. The New Jersey rocker called Guthrie, who died in 1967 at age 55, "one of my most important influences."

Springsteen and previous

prize recipient Pete Seeger performed Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" at Barack Obama's 2008 presidential inauguration.

Deana McCloud, who heads the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, said in a news release that, "As an observer of the human condition and a reporter about the plight of common people, Bruce Springsteen is a true child of Woody Guthrie."

"The Woody Guthrie Center is proud to present Bruce with this well-deserved recognition for his lifetime of speaking for the disenfranchised and inspiring generations to find the power of their own voices," she added.

Joan Baez, Chuck D, John Mellencamp, Norman Lear, Kris Kristofferson and Mavis Staples are among the past recipients of the award.

Prosecutors: Suspects tailed Lady Gaga's dog walker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three men drove around the Hollywood area in late February, on the prowl for expensive French bulldogs to steal, prosecutors said. Their night would end in gunfire—and the violent theft of pop star Lady Gaga's beloved pets.

The robbery would prompt headlines around the world—and motivate the owners of French bulldogs to be wary during walks—with few clues made public about the case or the circumstances surrounding the dogs' disappearance. The felony complaint, filed by prosecutors Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court and obtained by The Associated Press on Monday, gives some new

details about the attack and what preceded it.

Five people are charged in the case—the three men and two alleged accomplices—and all have pleaded not guilty.

The Lady Gaga connection was a coincidence, authorities have said. The motive was the value of the French bulldogs, a breed that can run into the thousands of dollars, and detectives do not believe the thieves knew the dogs belonged to the pop star.

The three men in the sedan—James Jackson, 18; Jaylin White, 19; and Lafayette Whaley, 27—were arrested last week on suspicion of attempted murder and robbery. Jackson is also accused of shooting Lady Gaga's dog

After years, court hands tax win to Michael Jackson heirs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A U.S. tax court has handed a major victory to the estate of Michael Jackson in a years-long battle, finding that the IRS wildly inflated the value at the time of his death of Jackson's assets and image, leading to an estate tax bill for his heirs that was far too high.

The IRS had put the value of three disputed aspects of Jackson's worth at the time of his 2009 death at about \$482 million. In his decision issued Monday, Judge Mark Holmes put that figure at \$111 million, far closer to the estate's own estimates.

The estate's executors said it was a huge and unambiguous victory for Jackson's children.

"We're pleased," co-executor John Branca told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "We always try to do the



right thing. We tried from the beginning to follow the IRS rules and regulations, and relied on the best experts possible. It's unfortunate that we were forced to litigate to protect ourselves."

The judge most disagreed

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, to release 1st children's book

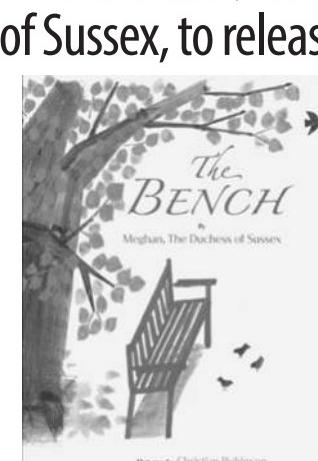
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is releasing her first children's book, one rooted in the relationship between Prince Harry and their son, Archie.

Random House Children's Books announced Tuesday that "The Bench" will be released June 8.

It is illustrated by award-winning illustrator Christian Robinson and Meghan will narrate the audiobook edition. The book features a diverse group of fathers and sons and moments they share, according to a statement announcing the release.

The book grew out of a poem Meghan wrote for Harry for their first Father's Day after Archie's birth, the statement said.

"That poem became this story," Meghan said. "Christian layered in beautiful and ethereal watercolor illustrations that capture the warmth, joy and comfort of the relationship between fathers and sons from all walks of life; this representation was particularly important to me, and Christian and I worked closely to depict



RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS VIA AP
Cover art for Meghan Markle's upcoming children's book "The Bench," with pictures by Christian Robinson. The book will publish on June 8.

tions that capture the warmth, joy and comfort of the relationship between fathers and sons from all walks of life; this representation was particularly important to me, and Christian and I worked closely to depict

In this May 25, 2005, file photo, Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse for his trial in Santa Maria, Calif. AP

gations continued to dog him, and while Jackson was selling out dates for a planned world tour when he died, he could not find a sponsor or merchandise partner.

"The fact that he earned not a penny from his image and likeness in 2006, 2007, or 2008 shows the effect those allegations had, and continued to have, until his death," Holmes wrote in the sprawling 271-page decision that tracks Jackson's fame and finances through most of his life.

Archie turns 2 on Thursday. Meghan and Harry are expecting their second child, a girl, later this year.

The book is one of several projects that Meghan and Harry have announced since stepping away from royal duties in early 2020. Meghan, the actor formerly known as Meghan Markle, narrated the Disney nature film "Elephant" and the couple has a Netflix deal. Their first project for the streaming service focuses on the Invictus Games, a competition for sick and injured military personnel and veterans that was championed by Harry.

Archie turns 2 on Thursday. Meghan and Harry are expecting their second child, a girl, later this year.

Robinson wrote and illustrated "Another" and "You Matter," and won Caldecott and Coretta Scott King honors for his art in "Last Stop on Market Street."

Boyfriend makes a grab for woman's child tax credit

DEAR ABBY: My daughter received her tax refund recently. It amounted to \$8,700. Approximately \$5,000 is for overpaying on taxes. Approximately \$3,000 is the child tax credit she receives for her two children. Her boyfriend, the father of the two boys, thinks he's entitled to some of her money.

Now, I understand the child tax credit is given for financial help for the children. My daughter and I agree that the \$5,000 is hers exclusively as she is the one who paid those taxes. As far as the child tax credit is concerned, her boyfriend thinks that he should be entitled to at least half of that because he's the father. We think because she is the one paying for the year's health insurance, doctor copays, prescriptions and most of the diapers, wipes, pullups and other incidentals, it should all be hers.

Don't get me wrong. Her boyfriend does contribute to the household and is a great guy. They split most of the bills. After five years, this is their first big disagreement.

He chooses to get money during the year, so of course he gets a lower tax refund at the end of the year. FYI, she pays less for the baby supplies because she works at a well-known warehouse. He contributes when they are low by picking some up at the grocery store. What advice do

you have?

MONEY WOES IN THE EAST

DEAR MONEY WOES: Watch your daughter's "great" boyfriend closely because his stance is troubling. Because he is the father (!) doesn't mean he has a right to any portion of the child tax credit. If he needs reimbursement for the items he picks up for his children at the grocery store, your daughter should repay him out of her salary, not by forking over half of her tax credit. That money is intended for the kids, not for any one parent. If things aren't clear enough, consider putting the tax credit money in a separate account.

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Frank" passed away last month. He didn't have any underlying medical conditions, so it was a shock. My problem is, when I was 9 and he was 14, he used to molest me while my mother was working.

For years, I never told anyone, but when I was 40, I told my mom and big brother. Both of them believed me. For the past five years, I had been there for Frank and his daughter, but I was always waiting for an apology from him that never came. Now it's all I dwell on. How can I move past this and try to remember the good times?

PERPLEXED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR PERPLEXED: Your religious adviser may be able to help you with that. However, if you are not religious, it may take some sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Your niece, Frank's daughter, should be asked if her father ever did anything that made her uncomfortable because, if he did, she may need professional help.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Bucks rally in 4th to beat Nets 124-118, clinch playoff spot



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee's late-season schedule has given the Bucks plenty of opportunities to measure themselves against the two teams they're chasing in the Eastern Conference standings.

The results have been encouraging.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 36 points and the Bucks used a fourth-quarter rally to beat the Brooklyn Nets for the second time in three days, winning 124-118 on Tuesday night. This mini-sweep comes less than two weeks after the Bucks won two straight games from East-leading Philadelphia.

"I'm happy we were able to put on a show for our fans and able to build good habits in those games, but that's all," said Antetokounmpo, who also had 12 rebounds. "They don't mean nothing. Nobody's going to remember these games when we're in the playoffs."

Brooklyn (43-23) lost its third straight to fall 1½ games behind Philadelphia (44-21). Milwaukee (41-24) clinched a fifth straight playoff appear-

Beal, Westbrook, Wizards make statement in photo

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bradley Beal, Russell Westbrook and the rest of the Washington Wizards wore black T-shirts with one word in white capital letters on each—"accountability," "equality" or "justice"—for their annual team photo.

"It's definitely a statement piece for us," Beal, who is second in the NBA in scoring average this season, said in a video posted Tuesday by the Wizards on Twitter.

"This is us just kind of choosing a few words that we kind of live by and we kind of hold ourselves to as men and as teammates," Beal added.

His shirt said "Justice." Westbrook's said "Accountability."

"I think it's amazing how we are, as a team, doing something a little different ... having shirts that actually have some substantial meaning behind it," said Westbrook, who leads the league in assists and is assured of averaging a triple-double over the course of an entire season for the fourth time in his career.

Washington has made a late-season surge to get itself in position to earn a play-in berth.

ance, but is third in the East, three behind Philadelphia and 1½ behind Brooklyn.

The Bucks are chasing their first NBA title since 1971. They posted the NBA's best regular-season record in 2018-19 and 2019-20, but lost in the Eastern Conference finals two seasons ago and in the second round last year.

That's why they're not making too much about their regular-season success against the teams ahead of them.

After all, the Nets didn't have James Harden for either of their two losses in Milwaukee. Philadelphia didn't have All-Stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons playing together in any of its matchups with Milwaukee.

If nothing else, these last two weeks have given the Bucks a confidence boost.

"It's important to be playing well going down the stretch here," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

Milwaukee blew a 10-point lead in the second half and trailed 103-97 with 10 minutes left, but it responded with an 18-1 run.

Brooklyn cut the margin to four with 1:02 left, but Antetokounmpo sank a pair of free throws and Jrue Holiday made a steal in the final minute to seal the victory. Holiday had 23 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

"They got a nice groove going in the fourth, made shots, made plays," said Brooklyn's Kevin Durant, who had 32 points, nine rebounds and six assists. "You've got to give them credit."

Kyrie Irving scored 38 points for the Nets, who got outrebounded 55-39.

Milwaukee's Donte DiVincenzo had a career-high 15 rebounds to go along with 10 points. Khris Middleton had 23 points and seven rebounds.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, middle, drives to the basket between Brooklyn Nets' Jeff Green, left, and Kevin Durant, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, May 4, 2021, in Milwaukee.

hit seven 3-pointers and capped a 33-point performance with a step-back jumper with 25.3 seconds left, followed by four free throws in the final 15 seconds, and New Orleans won at home.

Stephen Curry, who had 37 points and hit eight 3s, missed a deep jumper that could have given Golden State the lead in the final 20 seconds. Mychal Mulder briefly appeared to have a long offensive rebound in his grasp when Zion Williamson stole it and drew a clear path foul from Draymond Green.

Williamson, who had 23 points and 12 rebounds, hit his free throws. The Warriors then fouled Ball twice more after that, but Ball didn't miss and New Orleans pulled within three games of a Western Conference play-in position with six contests remaining.

Suns 134, Cavaliers 118

In Cleveland, Devin Booker scored 31 points, Chris Paul had 23 and 16 assists and visiting Phoenix stayed in step with Utah atop the Western Conference by winning in overtime for its fifth straight win.

Mikal Bridges made two 3-pointers, dunked and had a block as Phoenix scored the first 15 points in OT to finally put away the Cavs.

Phoenix outscored Cleveland 20-4 in the extra five minutes.

Kings 103, Thunder 99

In Oklahoma City, Buddy Hield had 18 points and 11 rebounds to help visiting Sacramento win its third straight.

It was the seventh double-double of Hield's five-year

career. He made just 5 of 16 shots, but he fell one rebound short of his career high.

Terence Davis scored 18 points and Delon Wright had 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Kings, who have won 6 of 9.

Mavericks 127, Heat 113

In Miami, Tim Hardaway Jr. made 10 3-pointers and scored 36 points, Luka Doncic added 23 points and Dallas won at Miami.

Duncan Robinson and Goran Dragic each scored 19 for Miami, which remained No. 6 in the Eastern Conference. The Heat played without Jimmy Butler, ruled out about two hours before the game with flu-like symptoms – not anything related to the coronavirus, the team said.

Pelicans 108, Warriors 103

In New Orleans, Lonzo Ball

friend than I do as a teammate, and I really appreciate him as a teammate," Lillard said. "I think that really speaks to the kind of person he is."

Afterward, Stotts presented Anthony with a game ball in the locker room.

"We need to acknowledge milestones," the coach said. "This is a big one. Top 10 of all time. That's big time."

After his teammates finished clapping, Anthony said: "A couple of years ago, I didn't think I was gonna be in this moment right now. I was out the league for whatever reason. I'm back. I persevered. I stayed strong, I stayed true to myself and now I'm here in the top 10."

He's not done yet.

"I'm still enjoying the game," Anthony said. "I'm still loving the game. I'm still approaching the game the same way."

Elite NBA scoring list adds Carmelo Anthony

ATLANTA (AP)—Carmelo Anthony looked like he was all done just a couple of seasons ago.

Now, he's part of a truly exclusive club in the NBA.

Welcome to the Top 10, Melo.

Anthony scored 14 points Monday night in Portland's 123-114 loss to the Atlanta Hawks, moving him past Elvin Hayes for 10th place on the career scoring list with 27,318.

"If you're in the top 10 of anything of all time, it's a special moment," said Anthony, who is in his 18th NBA season and turns 37 before the month is out.

Anthony cruised past Hayes early in the second quarter, hitting a 3-pointer while getting fouled by Danilo Gallinari and knocking down the free throw

to complete a 4-point play.

Anthony was fully aware of how many points he needed to surpass Hayes.

"I knew this moment," he said. "I didn't know those other moments — 15, 13, 11. But 10 is something I knew."

It appeared Anthony was headed for a forced retirement after he played just 10 games during the 2018-19 season.

He parted ways with Houston, was waived by Chicago and didn't hook up with Portland until the next season was several weeks old.

Even though he went more than a year without playing a game, Anthony found new life and a new role with the Trail Blazers.

A starter his entire career, he

is coming off the bench now, playing a supporting role to younger stars, players who still look up to him, such as Damian Lillard.

"Being in the top 10 in a really special accomplishment," Lillard said. "For him, it's probably a little more special. A lot of people counted him out and tried to finish him."

During his time with the Trail Blazers, Anthony has passed nine players on the career scoring list.

He knocked off Alex English, Kevin Garnett, John Havlicek and Paul Pierce last season. He has taken down Tim Duncan, Dominique Wilkins, Oscar Robertson, Hakeem Olajuwon and now Hayes this season.

Next up for Anthony: Mo-

ses Malone at 27,409 points.

Melo's got a good chance at catching him, too, by the end of the regular season.

"For Melo to be out a year and come back makes it even more remarkable," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "I always appreciate greatness, whether it's a player I'm coaching or coaching against. Melo is a great player. He's a Hall of Fame player."

Lillard went on and on about what a pleasure it's been to have Anthony as a teammate, disputing those who have described him over the years as a selfish player who was never quite good enough to lead his teams — most notably, Denver and New York — to a championship.

"I appreciate him more as a

Ynoa's slam, mound performance leads Braves over Nats



**W A S H I N G -
T O N** (AP)—The

Braves may not have the next Shohei Ohtani on their hands, but for one night, Huascar Ynoa outdid even the majors' most potent two-way threat.

Ynoa hit a grand slam and pitched seven stress-free innings, leading Atlanta to a 6-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

"Truth be told, I've put a lot of work into my hitting," Ynoa said through a translator. "I don't go into any of these at-bats trying to hit a home run."

"All I'm trying to do is really get a hit and get on base, and let the actual hitters do most of the damage."

Ynoa looked the part of an actual hitter in all three of his at-bats. The muscular 22-year-old put the ball in play twice against Nationals starter Joe Ross, forcing Ross to throw 11 pitches.

Then in the sixth inning, Ynoa blasted a fastball from reliever Tanner Rainey 427 feet to center field, extending his left arm on the follow-through like a polished slugger, to give Atlanta a 6-0 lead.

It was the first grand slam by a major league pitcher since Cincinnati's Anthony DeSclafani on June 23, 2018, and Ynoa became the first pitcher in Braves history to homer in consecutive starts. He is hitting .385 (5 for 13) this season, but that doesn't mean he'll be batting higher in the lineup or start at designated hitter anytime soon.

"It's kind of a small sample size," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "He's got to learn how to really hit breaking balls. I doubt he'll see many fastballs going forward."

While Ohtani homered in his first of three mound starts this season and has nine home runs while playing mostly at designated hitter, he has yet to pitch more than five innings in a game.

Ynoa (3-1), who came in with the lowest ERA among Atlanta starters, allowed an unearned run in the seventh and four hits total, having little trouble against a Washington lineup that's still missing Juan Soto and hasn't gotten much out of free-agent signees Josh Bell and Kyle Schwarber.

"He just is throwing the ball really well. We keep saying he has come a long way and continued to improve," Snitker said. "He's got no fear and he's got weapons."

Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his major-leading 10th homer of the season for the Braves, taking a slow dance around the bases to break a scoreless tie in the fifth. He hit the ball hard every time he swung the bat against Ross (2-2), lining a single on the right-hander's first pitch and getting robbed by center fielder Victor Robles on a deep drive in the third.

"The way it was hit, it was a rock-et," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "(Robles) goes back and catches the ball over his shoulder like that, it was a heck of a play."

Atlanta stopped a four-game skid while ending Washington's four-game winning streak, which had



Atlanta Braves' Huascar Ynoa watches his grand slam during the sixth inning of baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Tuesday, May 4, 2021, in Washington.

bumped the Nationals into first place in the underachieving NL East.

Ross worked 5 1/3 innings, allowing two runs on five hits with two walks and three strikeouts. He left with two men on and Rainey gave up William Contreras' run-scoring single. Rainey walked Pache before he grooved the 0-1 fastball to Ynoa, who didn't miss.

"It was something he could handle and he obviously put a good swing on it," Rainey said.

Marlins 9, Diamondbacks 3

In Miami, NL RBIs leader Jesús Aguilar delivered a tiebreaking single in a six-run eighth against Kevin Ginkel (0-1) following Miguel Rojas' double, Corey Dickerson followed with an infield single, and catcher Stephen Vogt's throwing error allowed Aguilar to score all the way from first.

Lewis Brinson added a three-run homer off Alex Young.

Richard Bleier (2-0) came out of the bullpen and struck out Josh Rojas, Wyatt Mathisen and Pavin Smith after Arizona tied the score in the top of the eighth.

Rockies 12, Giants 4 Rockies 8, Giants 6

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon hit a three-run, two-out homer off Camilo Doval (0-1) to cap a comeback from a 6-2 in the final inning, giving Colorado a doubleheader split.

Brandon Belt hit a go-ahead single and a grand slam in a 10-run first inning of a doubleheader opener. Belt homered in the second game and had seven RBIs in the doubleheader.

German Márquez (1-3) allowed eight runs and six hits in two-thirds of an inning. Matt Wisler (1-2) retired Colorado's final five batters.

Ben Bowden (1-2) got his first big league win with 1 2/3 scoreless in-

nings in the second game.

Cubs 7, Dodgers 1 Cubs 4, Dodgers 3

In Chicago, Clayton Kershaw (4-3) gave up four runs and four hits in one inning of the opener in the shortest start of his career — exactly 11 years after he went just 1 1/3 innings against Milwaukee.

Trevor Bauer didn't get through the fifth in the nightcap and David Bote, who tagged Kershaw for a three-run double in a 7-1 win, delivered a game-ending single off Garrett Cleavinger (0-2) on the ninth inning. The Dodgers have lost eight of their last 10 games.

Anthony Rizzo had an RBI single off Kershaw, a three-time NL Cy Young Award winner. Kyle Hendricks (2-3) allowed seven hits over seven innings in his sixth career complete game.

Justin Steele (1-0) got his first career win in the second game as Chicago took two from the World Series champions after losing seven of nine.

Phillies 6, Brewers 5

In Philadelphia, Andrew McCutchen had a pair of solo homers and Brad Miller hit a three-run shot to back Aaron Nola.

Nola (3-1) struck out 10 and allowed one run and five hits in six gritty innings as the Phillies held on to earn consecutive wins for the first time since they started the season 4-0.

Phillies reliever Enyel De Los Santos, called up from the minors earlier in the day, came out of the bullpen to pitch the seventh but was denied entry by umpires because he didn't appear on their lineup card.

Sam Coonrod got five outs for his second save.

Brewers starter Eric Lauer (1-1) gave up six runs — two earned —

and eight hits in six innings, striking out seven.

Yankees 7, Astros 3

In New York, boos and bad words streamed loudly from the seats in Houston's return to Yankee Stadium, and New York got a homer and four hits from Giancarlo Stanton to sate those spiteful fans.

In Houston's first visit to the Bronx since its sign-stealing scam was exposed, an error by Astros third baseman Alex Bregman in the sixth inning let New York blow the game open.

A pandemic-limited, sellout crowd of 10,850 skipped subtle barbs for salty language, aimed especially at 2017 AL MVP Jose Altuve. Several brought signs insulting the Astros, and security confiscated multiple inflatable trash cans.

Bregman homered in the first inning to momentarily hush those haters, but his miscue in the sixth with the game tied 3-3 doomed Houston.

The Yankees have won nine of 12 and improved to 15-14, their first time over .500 since they were 3-2. Lucas Luetge (2-0) pitched a scoreless sixth and was credited with the win. Brandon Bielak (1-1) took the loss.

Rangers 6, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Adolis García hit a two-run homer in the 10th off Brandon Waddell (0-1), his third hit.

Kyle Gibson, making his first start against his former team, gave up three runs and three hits with eight strikeouts.

Joely Rodríguez (1-1) struck out two in a perfect ninth, and Ian Kennedy gave up a leadoff single before getting a strikeout and game-ending double-play grounder for his eighth save in as many chances.

Taylor Rogers allowed Willie Ca-

houn's leadoff homer and Isiah Kinney-Falefa's sacrifice fly in the ninth, which followed third baseman Josh Donaldson's fielding error on Charlie Culberson's grounder.

Red Sox 11, Tigers 7

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer, Nick Pivetta struck out eight over five innings and Boston sent Detroit to its sixth straight loss.

Alex Verdugo, Hunter Renfroe and Kiké Hernández also went deep for Boston, which led 8-2 after three innings. The Tigers have lost 11 of 12, dropping to a big league-worst 8-22.

Nick Pivetta (4-0) gave up three runs and six hits in five innings, and Matt Barnes got five outs for his seventh save.

Miguel Cabrera went 0 for 5, striking out twice and grounding into two double plays. The 11-time All-Star is batting .105 (6 for 57).

White Sox 9, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Dylan Cease (2-0) pitched one-hit ball for six innings, struck out 11 and got two doubles and a single in his first pro plate appearances. Cease became the first American League pitcher since Jarrod Washburn in 2001 to have a three-hit game.

After the first pitch was delayed more than an hour by rain, the White Sox roughed up Jeff Hoffman (2-2) for three runs in the first.

Jose Abreu, who had two hits in his previous 19 at-bats, hit his sixth homer of the season and had three RBIs.

Indians 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Harold Ramirez hit a go-ahead double in the eighth, pinch-hitter Jake Bauers added a two-run homer later in the inning and Cleveland rallied from a 3-0 deficit.

Strong bullpen work by Nick Sandlin, Nick Wittgren (1-1) and Cal Quantrill shut out the Royals over the final four innings as the Indians improved to 14-1 this season when scoring at least four runs.

Royals reliever Josh Staumont (0-1) walked Franmil Reyes in the eighth before Ramirez guided a pitch just inside the foul line for the go-ahead run. Josh Naylor followed with an RBI single and Bauers capped the inning.

Salvador Perez provided the biggest highlight for Kansas City, hitting a homer estimated at 460 feet into the fountains.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 1

In Oakland, Calif., Mitch Moreland hit a two-run homer on the heels of Jed Lowrie's two-run double in the second to back Cole Irvin (3-3), who allowed three hits and struck out a career-high nine over eight smooth innings.

Yusmeiro Petit finished the 2-hour, 18-minute game for his seventh career save and first since 2017 with the Angels.

The A's improved to an AL-best 19-12, second in the majors only to the Bay Area rival San Francisco Giants, and matched their season high of seven games over .500.

Anthony Kay (0-2) allowed four runs and four hits in four innings.

Mobil Oil Marianas sponsors SCC Scholarship Golf tourney

Mobil Oil Marianas has signed on as 2021 "Over Easy" Sponsor of the SCC Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is humbled by the continued support from the local business community in supporting students seeking higher education in the CNMI through the Chamber's scholarship initiative.

A friend and supporter of the community, Mobil Oil generously continues to provide support for the Chamber's events and initiative. Beyond generous monetary donations, they eagerly provided tees and



markers for all players in this year's tournament.

"Mobil is proud to support the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in their efforts to provide opportunities for students seeking higher education through our sponsorship of the 2021 Scholarship Golf Tournament. Our sponsorship is a step towards continuous support and investment of future business leaders of the CNMI. We are honored to be a part of this great initiative," said Mobil Oil Marianas marketing representative Malaina Kileleman.

The Chamber extends their gratitude to Mobil Oil Marian-



Mobil

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Mobil Oil Marianas marketing representative Malaina Kileleman and Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Franco Santos and Maxine Laszlo.

Students gear up for new fishing tournament

The time of the annual Shoreline Casting Tournament has come and gone, postponed by the most recent flare-up of COVID-19 here on Saipan, but the Tasi to Table fishing club won't stop casting around for a good event.

Instead of the regular shoreline competition, typically open to adult and youth competitors, the Tasi to Table fishing club will be putting on a Shallow Bottom Youth Tournament for its junior members.

This Saturday, May 8, a total of 22 of TTT's youth members, from all four of Saipan's public high schools, will gather early in the morning at Smiling Cove Marina.

The tournament begins at 6am, when they launch from the transient dock, ready to spend the day fighting the sea, and hopefully bringing home some delicious trophies of their victory. The tournament will conclude

by noon, when the Tasi to Table fishing club will return to shore. The day's catch will be weighed, and awards handed out to the most successful of the young fishers.

Wayne Pangelinan, TTT vice president and organizer for the event, can hardly wait. "There's a 48-footer that's going to be taking the kids out, they're all going to compete on that boat," he told me. "It'll be perfect. You'll get some first-hand experience—and hopefully some fish as well!"

Pangelinan will be following in a service vessel—safety first, after all!—while club advisors from the high-schools will manage the event on-site.

This year's Shallow Bottom Tournament is sponsored by Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

(*Cody Race*)

as for their continued partnership. "We appreciate Mobil's commitment to the workforce

and education by sponsoring our golf tournament," said 2021 golf tournament chair

Shayne Villanueva. "Our scholarships go a long way and theirs is definitely a part of that."

baseball. The program should begin in June and end in July.

Baseball tryouts for the UOG team are planned for August with play expected to begin in September or October. The UOG baseball team will play in both the Guam Major League and the Amateur Baseball League during the academic year.

"UOG has a long history of baseball and winning championships on the island. We hope to return to that level of baseball again," Bennett said.

A student-athlete social for all UOG sports is planned for August to recognize the return of varsity athletics after a year off due to the pandemic.

The Triton Baseball program is also looking for an assistant coach as well as volunteer assistants.

For more information, contact Doug Palmer at (671) 735-2862 or palmerd@triton.uog.edu or Bill Bennett at bill@guambaseball.com or (671) 483-6500. (PR)

MCDONALD'S

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because whatever you eat, you can work it out. We're happy to see so many kids come out and join compared to when we started this years ago with just a few children. Now we have hundreds of children coming out to participate," she said.

Nick Gross, PSS Athletic Program director, said the partnership with McDonald's is an over 20-year partnership and it ensures that PSS is able to pursue the event annually.

"We're just really excited to be able to continue the tradition of PSS McDonald's All Schools Championships and having a partner like McDonald's ensures that we can do it year after year and allows us to show some growth and continue to find the fastest runner, the longest jumper, and the furthest throwers in the CNMI year after year," he said.

The funds, Gross said, will cover costs for the event like water, medals, trophies, and

food for 20-40 volunteers

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb said NMA is thankful for the continuous support they received from McDonald's for the past 21 years of All Schools Track and Field.

"In behalf of NMA, we want to express our gratitude and thanks to McDonalds and PSS for partnering [with us] for a long time, it's been more than 20 years. We wouldn't be able to do this without the combined efforts of these sponsors and volunteers that come out," he said.

Tebuteb explained that the McDonald's donation allows the event to recruit the officials needed to smoothly run an event like track because there's so many things going on at once.

In terms of officiating aspects of track and field, because it happens simultaneously, we need quite a few hands to take care of the officials. For track and field, you need quite a lot of officials," he said.

TOVES

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league. EDP is one of the largest organizers of youth soccer leagues and tournaments in the U.S.

"I look forward for the great opportunity to play in a different environment and different team and players," said Manabat.

The midfielder/centerback added that his while his stint with the CNMI men's and youth national teams has exposed him to the Asian-type of play, his upcoming appearance in the U.S. league with the Bookland FC will give him a better idea on another brand of soccer.

"I heard they play a more physical game out there. This will be an interesting training camp and a learning opportuni-

ty for myself and Merrick. The training camp will also allow us to apply what we have learned from the national team training and our coaches and see how we fare with players in the U.S. mainland," Manabat said.

The 19-year-old said they are going to play with and against players in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and Major League Soccer Youth Academy.

"You can say that these players may have advantage over us because they have more game exposure, so this training camp will give us the time to test our mental toughness, too—how we can adjust under pressure and not be scared of other players," Manabat said.

Better goalkeeper

Toves is thankful for the

chance to attend the training camp with Manabat, saying that it's a rare opportunity for a young player and goalkeeper like him so he wants to capitalize on this occasion and work on improving his game.

"There are some things I need to work on. I'm really hoping to learn a lot of new things from this trip so when I return I can help other goalkeepers here in the CNMI," the Mt. Carmel School student said.

College preparation

Toves said that by playing with Brooklyn FC and in the EDP, he hopes to attract more scouts/coaches who will be at the games looking to recruit players for their collegiate teams.

CNMI Men's National Team head coach and Northern Marian Islands Football Associa-

tion technical director Michiteru Mita also acknowledged the training camp as an opportunity for Toves and Manabat to prepare for the collegiate play.

"I heard this training camp's objective is to prepare them for college soccer. They've been planning on going to college to pursue higher education and play soccer in a higher level," Mita said.

"I want them to enjoy the experience and challenge and to always appreciate Kanoa Football Club, NMIFA, their family, and teammates who have been supporting them since the day they started playing soccer. And when they go off island, always remember to represent the CNMI well on and off the pitch, as they have the CNMI flag on their chest," the head coach added.



Bucks rally in
4th to beat Nets
124-118, clinch
playoff spot

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Mobil Oil
Marianas
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Scholarship
Golf tourney
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20 THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

McDonald's renews All Schools commitment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

With the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship coming up this weekend, McDonald's Saipan and Guam has donated \$3,000 to show their commitment to its partnership with PSS and Northern Marianas Athletics.

 According to McDonald's owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, McDonald's tirelessly supports the annual track and field championship



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
From the left, Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong, PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross, McDonald's Saipan and Guam owner Marcia Ayuyu, and NMA president Ramon Tebuteb pose for a photo after McDonald's Saipan and Guam donated \$3,000 to the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship coming up this weekend.

youth like track and field.

"We want to promote an active lifestyle because these days, most children want to stay home and play games so this is one way to promote going out and getting active," she said.

Despite the notion that McDonald's contributes to obesity in children, Ayuyu said it's not true in the CNMI because the main purpose McDonald's donates to events like track and field is to encourage children to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

"McDonald's believes that it's not just about what you eat,

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Toves, Manabat invited to training camp in DC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI national team pool members Merrick Toves and Sebastien Manabat are heading to Washington, D.C. later this month to attend a training camp with Brookland

Football Club.

Toves and Manabat will leave Saipan on May 31 and will be joining Brooklyn's U20/U23 players in a two-month training camp. The two players, who also suit up for Kanoa Football

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Manabat



Toves

Strictly Business sweeps foes in 17U

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Strictly Business swept their matches and ultimately conquered the 17U division of the inaugural Battle of the NORF 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament that concluded last Sunday at the As Matuis basketball court.

Strictly Business, which included Leopoldo Naraja, Derrick Atalig, Freddy Pelisamen, Lucio Aldan, and Frankie Satur, edged K-Town with a 9-7 victory to take the 17U division of the inaugural 3-on-3, single-elimination basketball tournament last Sunday evening.

Aside from besting K-Town, the champions also prevailed in its match against K-Rollers but no results were recorded.

Naraja said the team's strategy was to use the pick-and-roll and to always stay one step ahead of their opponents.

Naraja emphasized that the secret for the team was to play with heart. Naraja even compared the drive to win to one of the team's matches in the Rollers Basketball Association's league.

"We played great because we played our hearts out just like our Rollers game. We lost one game but in the championships [in the RBA], we came back and won the most important game. It feels exactly like that, that's what I mean about playing our hearts out," he said.

In addition, Naraja said they managed the win because they communicated well and played efficiently as a team.

"Our team communicated well and we really worked as



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Strictly Business swept their matches and ultimately conquered the 17U division of the inaugural Battle of the NORF 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament that concluded last Sunday at the As Matuis basketball court.